

A SIDE CHARACTER'S LOVE STORY

4

Akane Tamura



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CONTENTS

A Side Character's Love Story Vol. 4

Chapter 16	003
Chapter 17	029
Chapter 18	057
Chapter 19	085
Chapter 20	119
Special Chapter	147

CHAPTER 16





WHEN IT
WAS TIME...

...FOR IRIE-KUN
AND I TO PART
WAYS AFTER
LEAVING THE
ZOO...



...WE
TURNED
AROUND...

...OUR
EYES
MET...



...AND
THEN...









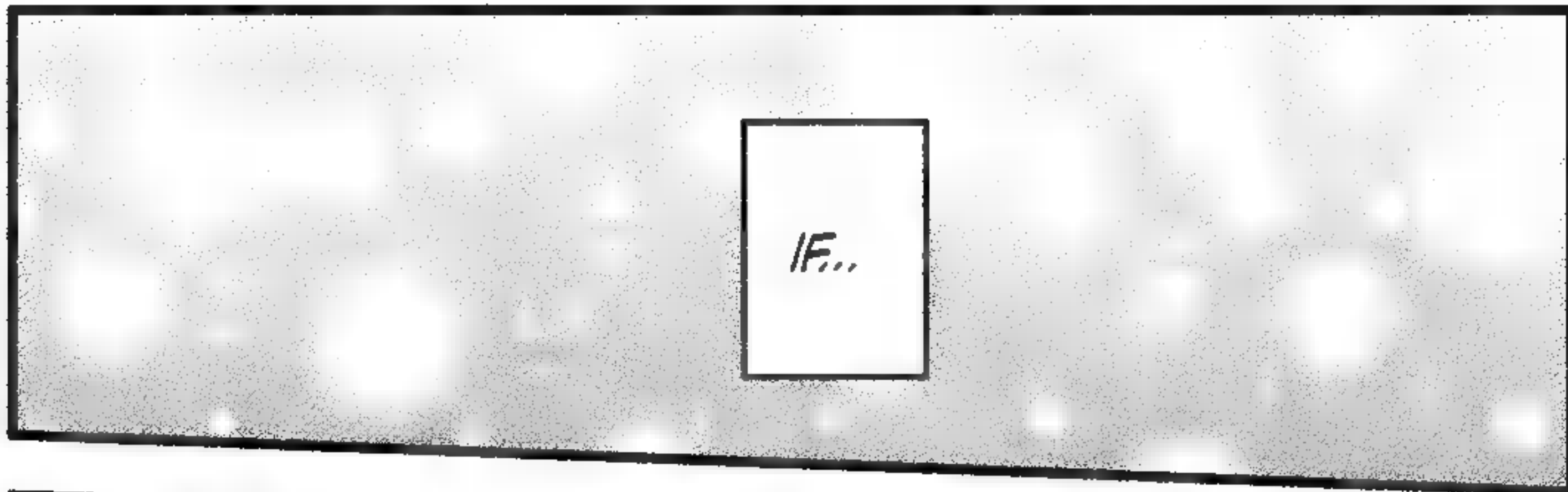


IF...



...WOULD HE
HAVE SAID
SOMETHING
DIFFERENT?

...IT HADN'T
STARTED
RAINING...



IF...

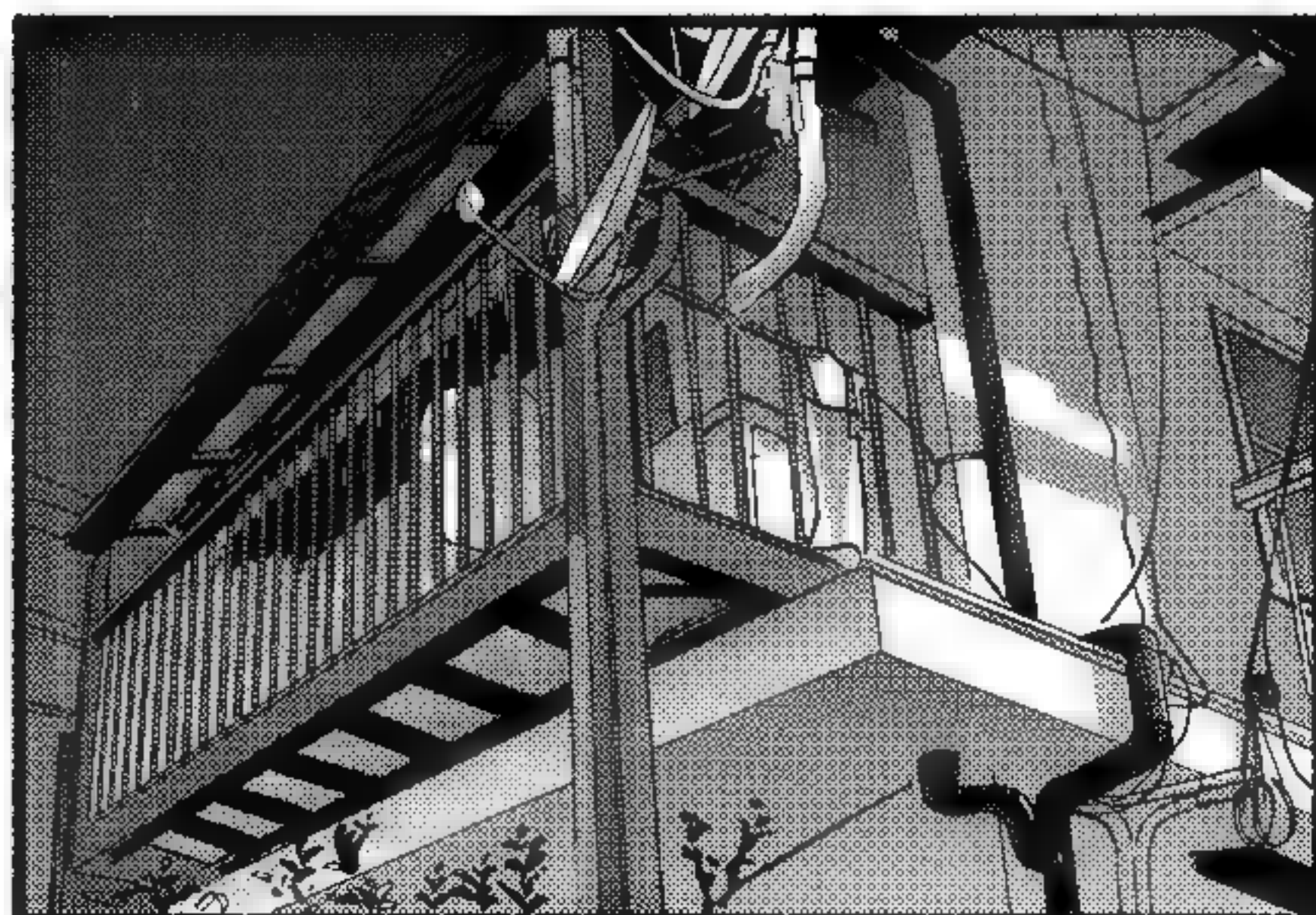


...I'D TOLD
HIM HOW
I FELT...



...IN THAT
MOMENT

THAT
OUR
EYES
MET...





I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
CARRYING
A FOLDING
UMBRELLA?

UHH...



I'M
HOME.

SPLISH

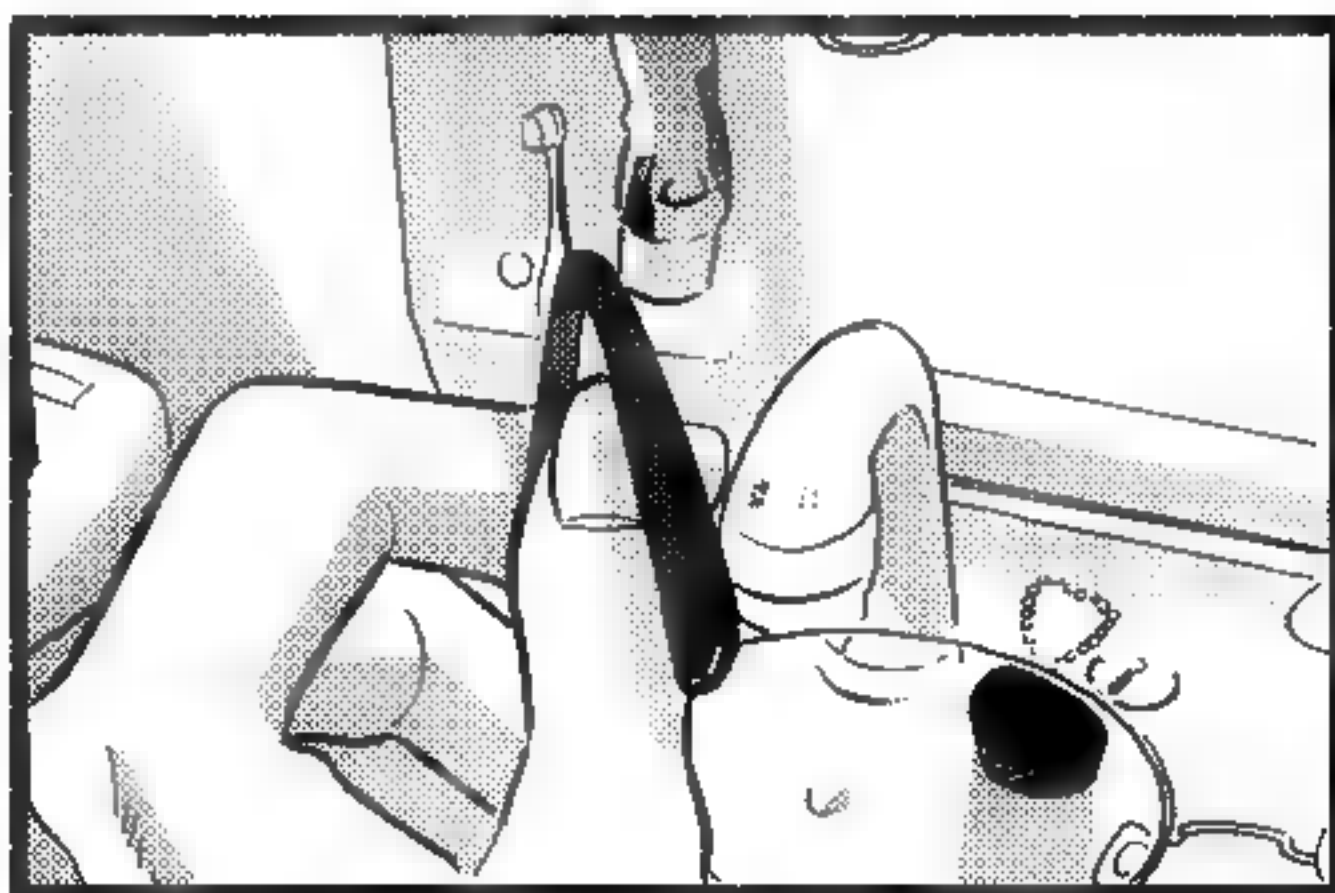
HUUUH?!



I DIDN'T
THINK TO...

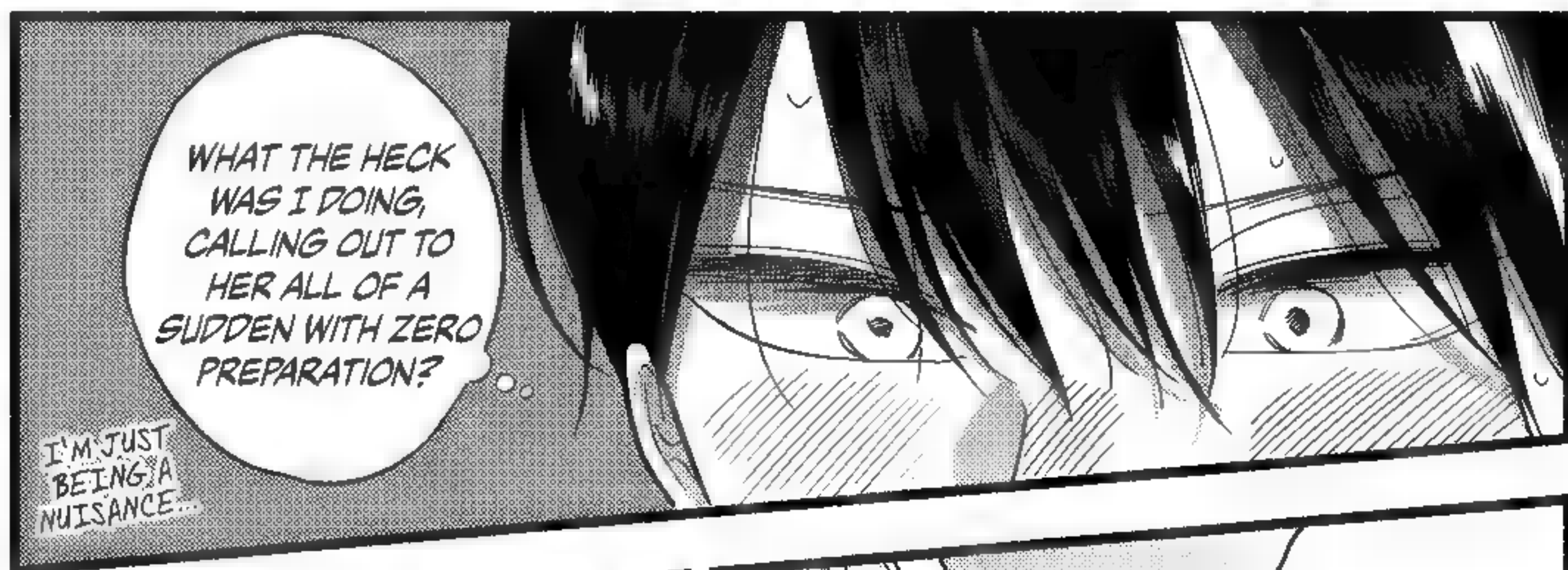
GET
IN THE
BATH,
NOW.

HUH...





WHAT AM
I DOING...?!



WHAT THE HECK
WAS I DOING,
CALLING OUT TO
HER ALL OF A
SUDDEN WITH ZERO
PREPARATION?

I'M JUST
BEING A
NUISANCE...



BUT...

.../F...

BLUSH

NO. EVEN
IF I'D BEEN
PREPARED...

...IT'S NOT
LIKE THINGS
WOULD'VE
BEEN ANY
DIFFERENT.

...I REALLY
HAD TOLD
HER...

HUH?

I DIDN'T
REALIZE...

HMM...

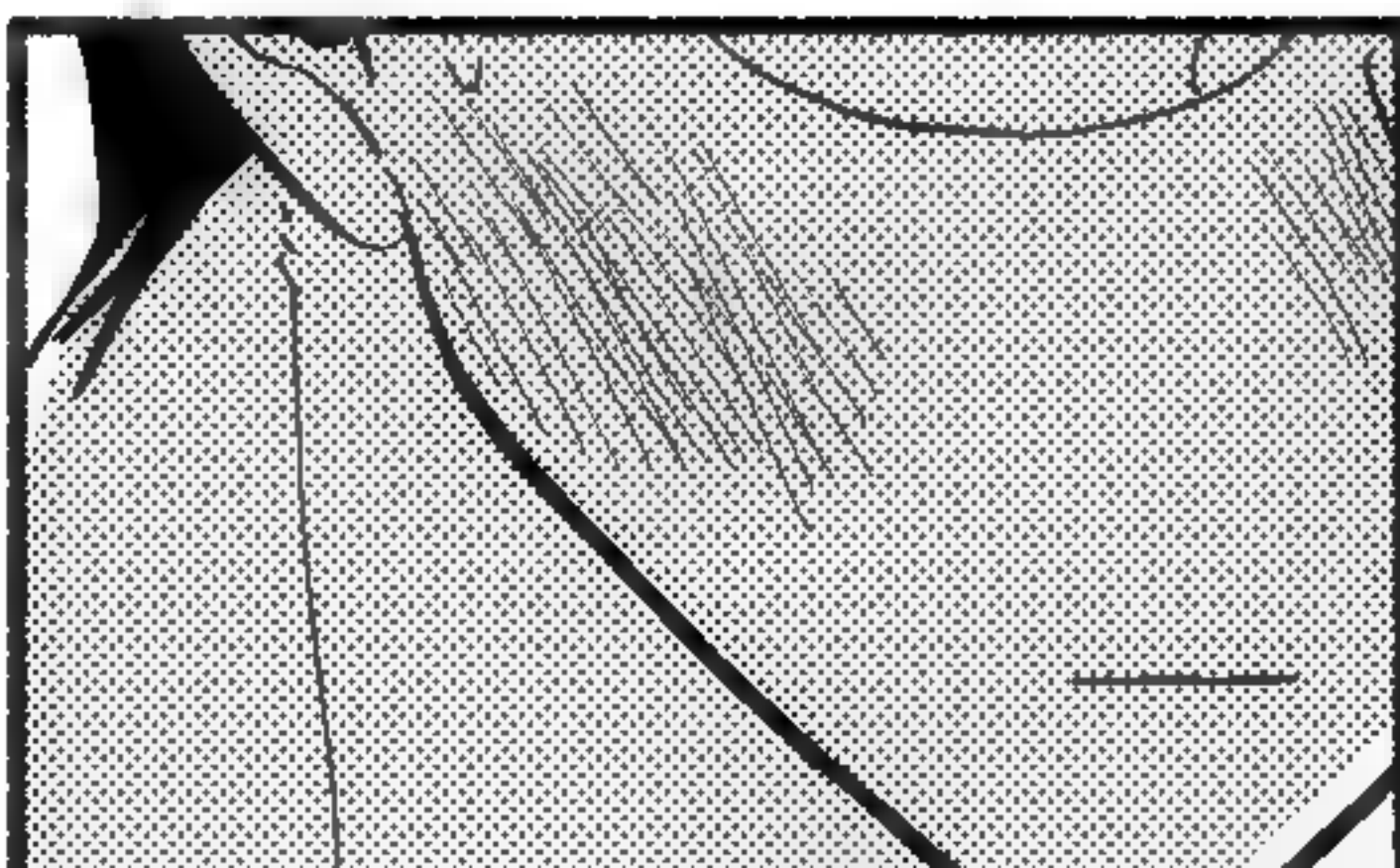
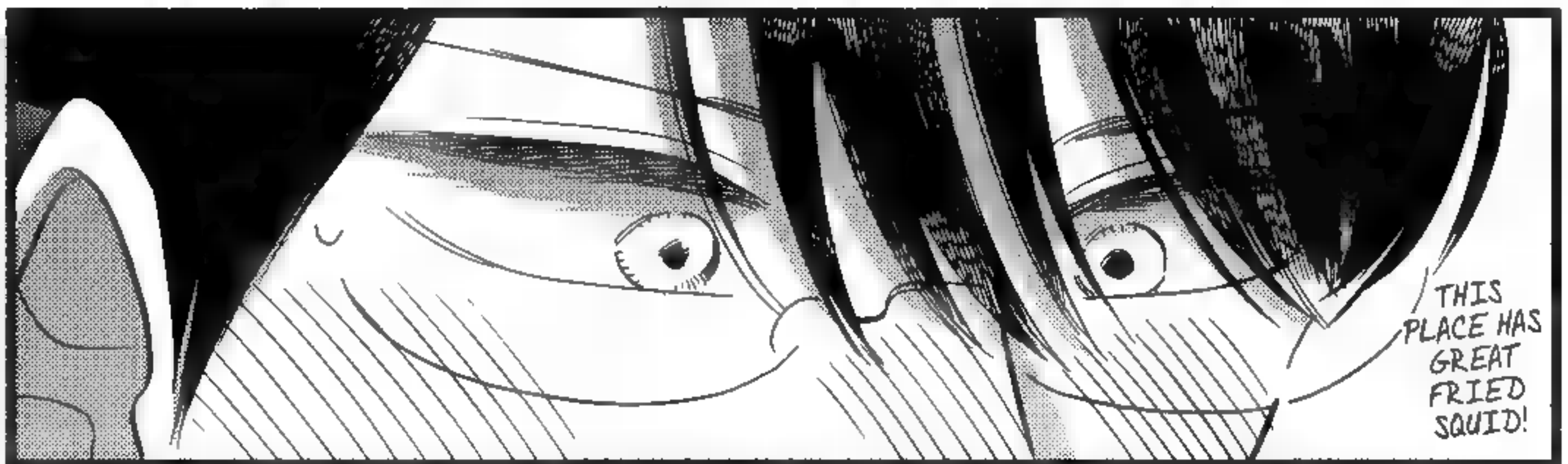
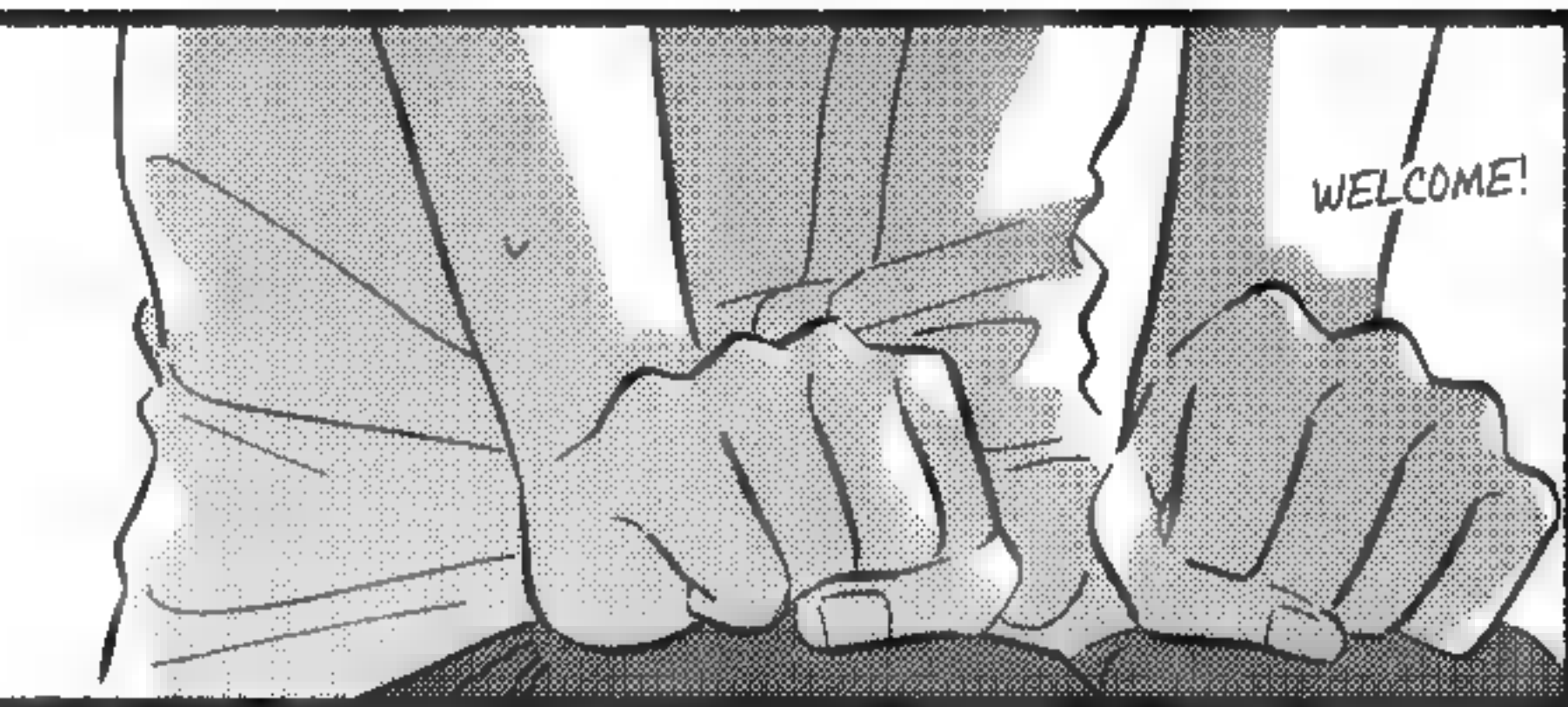
WHY AREN'T
YOU IN THE
BATH YET?

OH--

IT'S
BEEN 30
MINUTES...









UM...





BASICALLY,
IF CONFESSING
DOESN'T GO
WELL...

...AND IT ENDS
UP MAKING
TANAKA-SAN FEEL
AWKWARD,

AH,
PARDON ME!

THEN I
THINK I SHOULD
QUIT MY JOB.

BUT DOING
THAT WOULD
JUST SHIFT
MY WORKLOAD
ONTO YOU...



COULD I ADD ON AN ORDER
OF TREASURE BOAT-FISH?

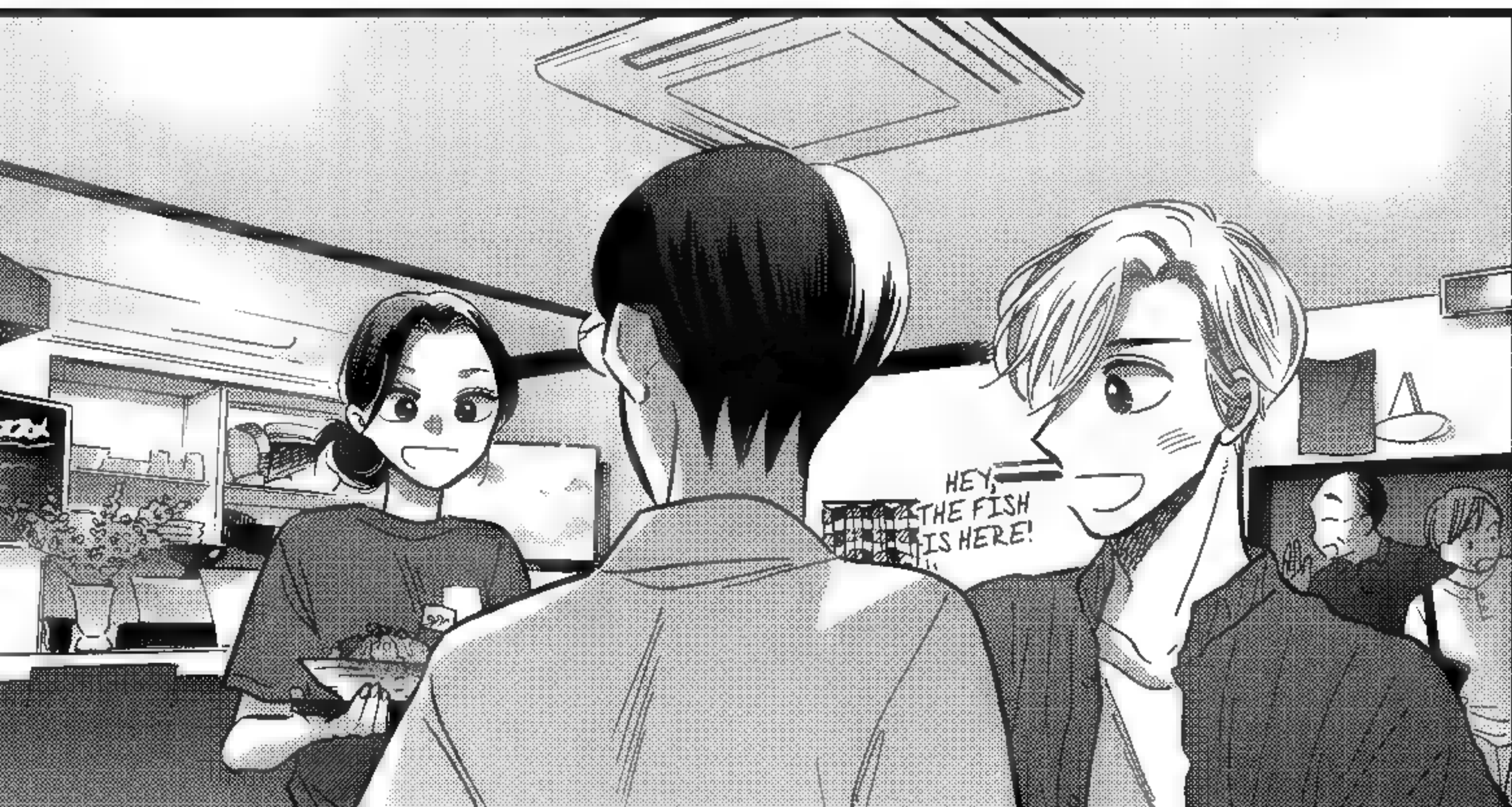
OF
COURSE!



IRIE.

...



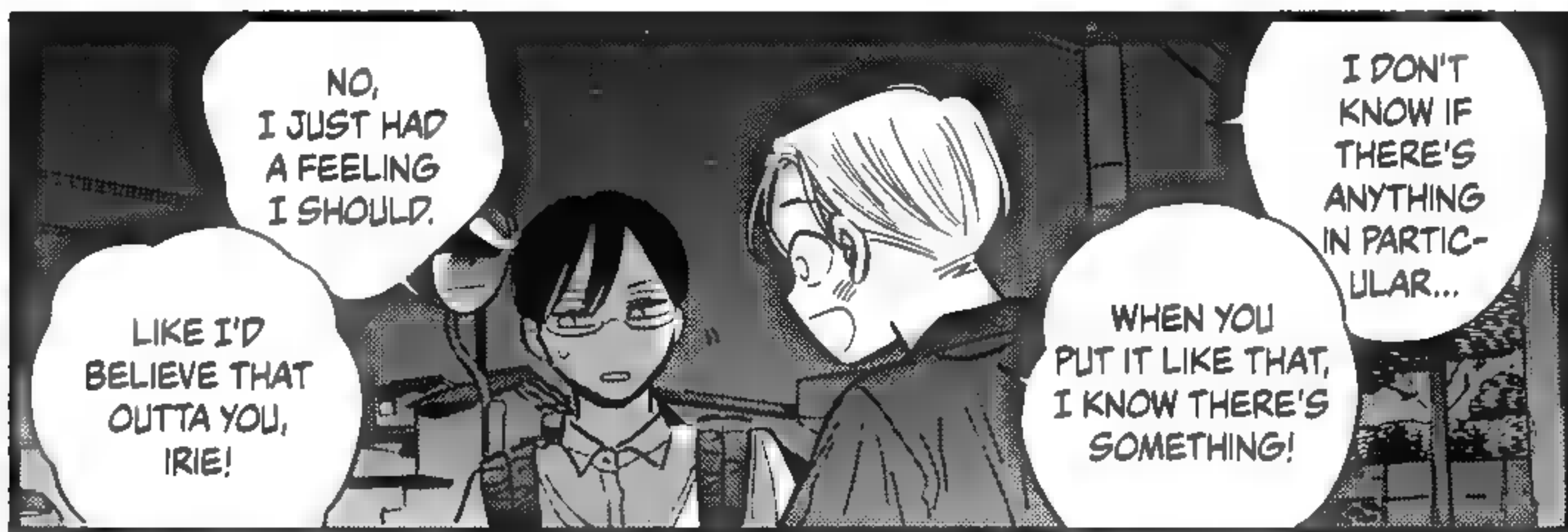




BY THE WAY,
WHAT MADE
YOU DECIDE TO
CONFESS?



THANK
YOU
VERY
MUCH!



NO,
I JUST HAD
A FEELING
I SHOULD.

LIKE I'D
BELIEVE THAT
OUTTA YOU,
IRIE!

I DON'T
KNOW IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
IN PARTIC-
ULAR...

WHEN YOU
PUT IT LIKE THAT,
I KNOW THERE'S
SOMETHING!



ACTUALLY...



C'MON,
TELL ME!

...



...I
THOUGHT
OF IT...



...WHILE
I WAS
ALONE.



THAT
DAY,

AFTER
I WENT
HOME
IN THE
RAIN...



A FUTURE
WHERE I
CONFESSED,
AND MY
FEELINGS WERE
RETURNED.



WHERE
I TOLD THE
GIRL I LIKE...



...HOW I
TRULY FEEL.



WHERE
I'D HAVE
NOTHING
MORE TO
HIDE...



AND...

...AND I'D BE
ALLOWED TO
STAY BESIDE
HER.



...WE'D BE
CLOSE ENOUGH
FOR OUR HANDS
TO MEET.



...I SORT
OF... UM,
I GUESS...

WHEN I
THOUGHT ABOUT
ALL THAT...

...I COULDN'T
KEEP SITTING
STILL.

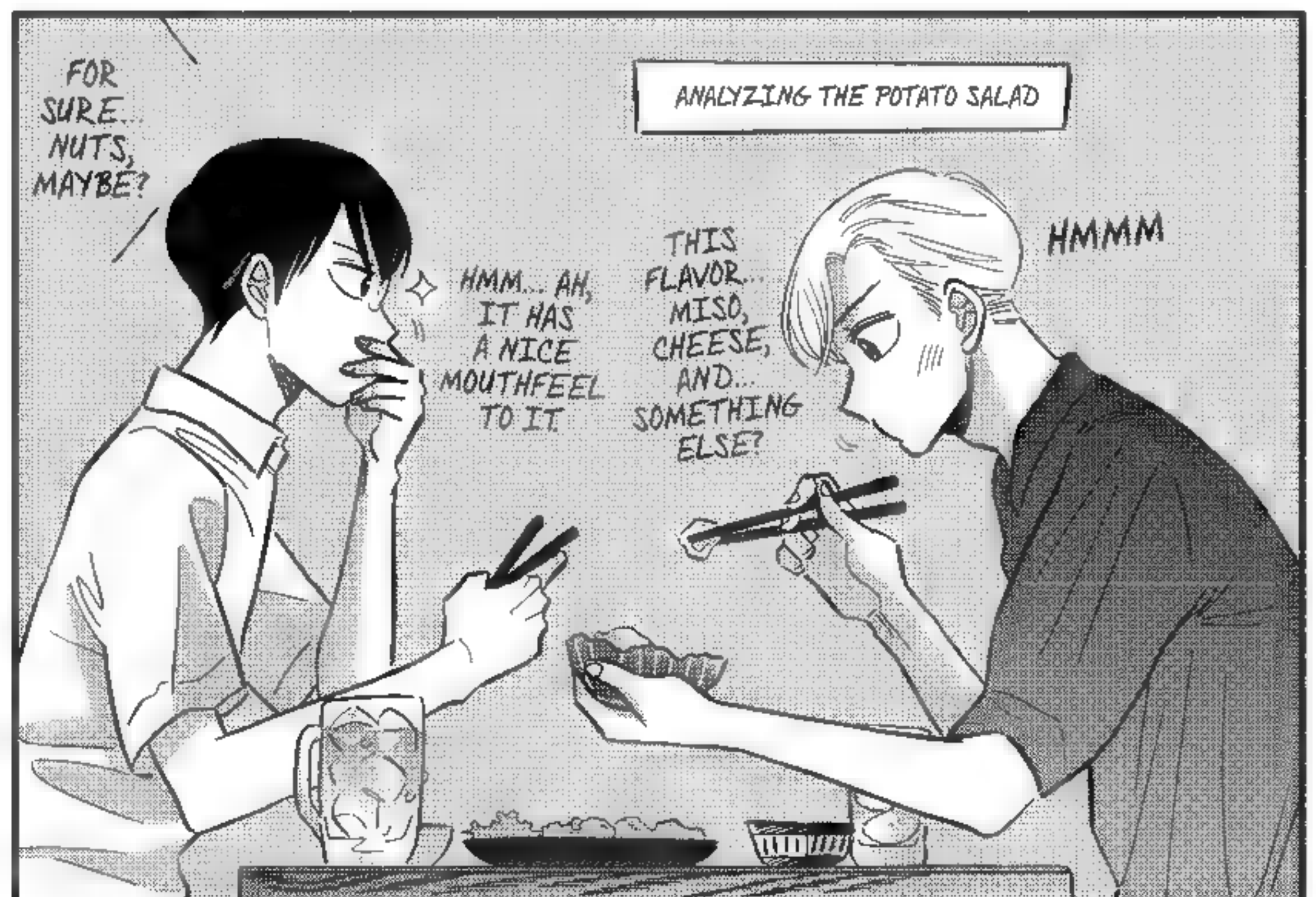


MY HEART
HAD ALREADY
DECIDED...

...BEFORE
MY WORDS
CAUGHT UP.



AT THE IZAKAYA







THERE AREN'T ANY OTHER PLACES

SINCE YOU WOULDN'T GO TO ANOTHER PLACE WITH ME

CHEERS TO CONVENIENCE STORE ICE CREAM!



HUH? OH... UM...

I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THAT FAR YET...



STRATEGY? FOR...?

YOUR PLAN FOR CONFESSING!

SO THEN, WHAT'S YOUR STRATEGY?



NO, NO, NO! OUTSIDE AFTER WORK, ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

HUH?

YOU GOTTA TAKE HER ON A STUPENDOUS DATE THAT BRINGS YOU GUYS CLOSER, TO A PLACE WITH THE PERFECT ATMOSPHERE, WHERE YOU'LL GIVE HER YOUR PERFECTLY-CRAFTED CONFESSION!

YOU HAVE TO COME UP WITH A PROPER DATE PLAN!

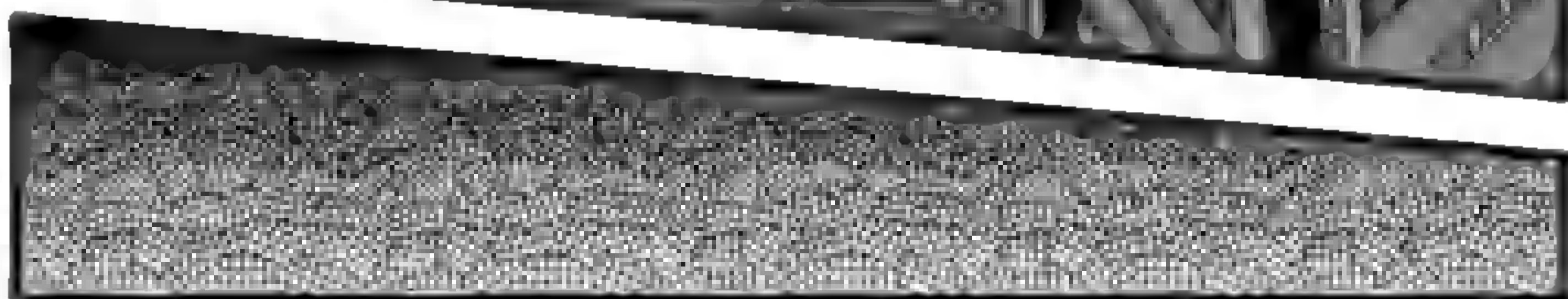


WHAA-AAAT?!

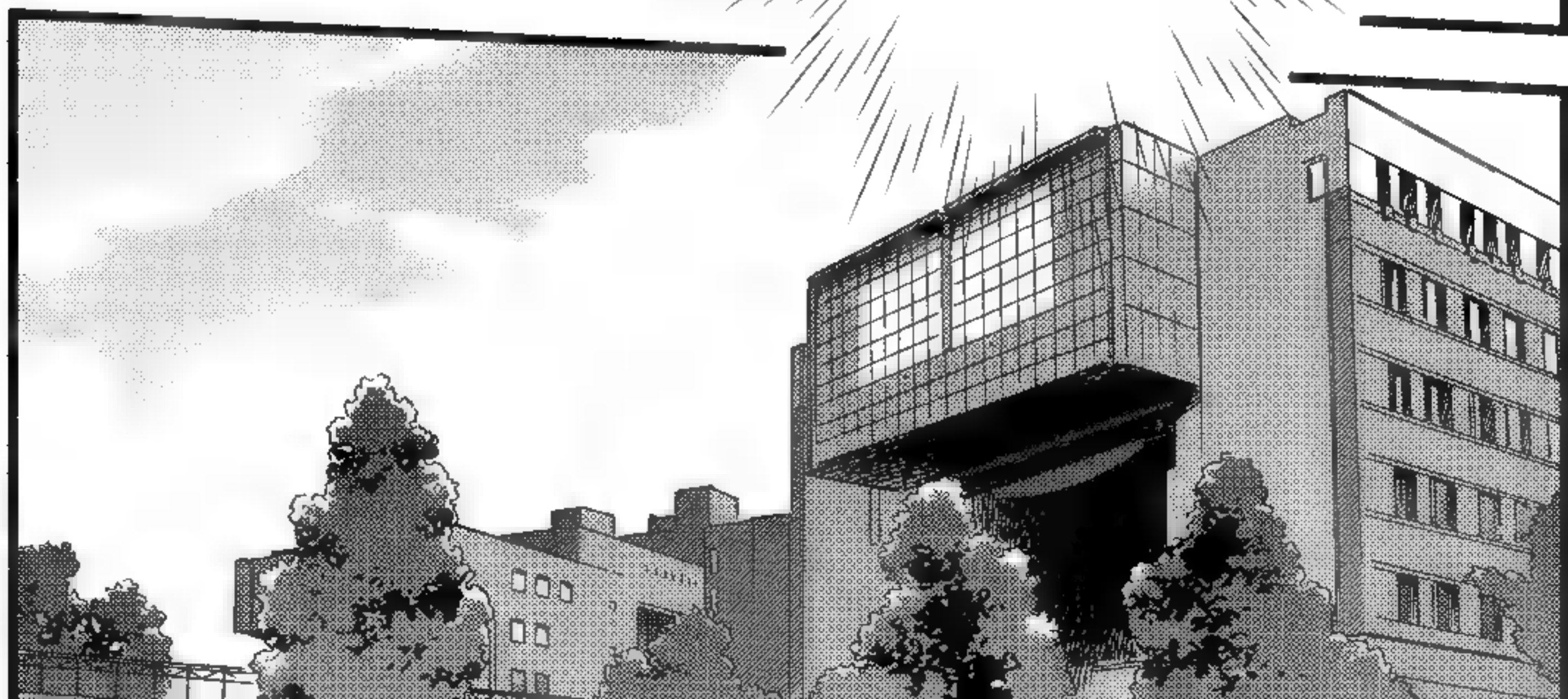
I GUESS I'LL WAIT OUTSIDE AFTER WORK, WHEN THERE'S NO ONE ELSE AROUND...



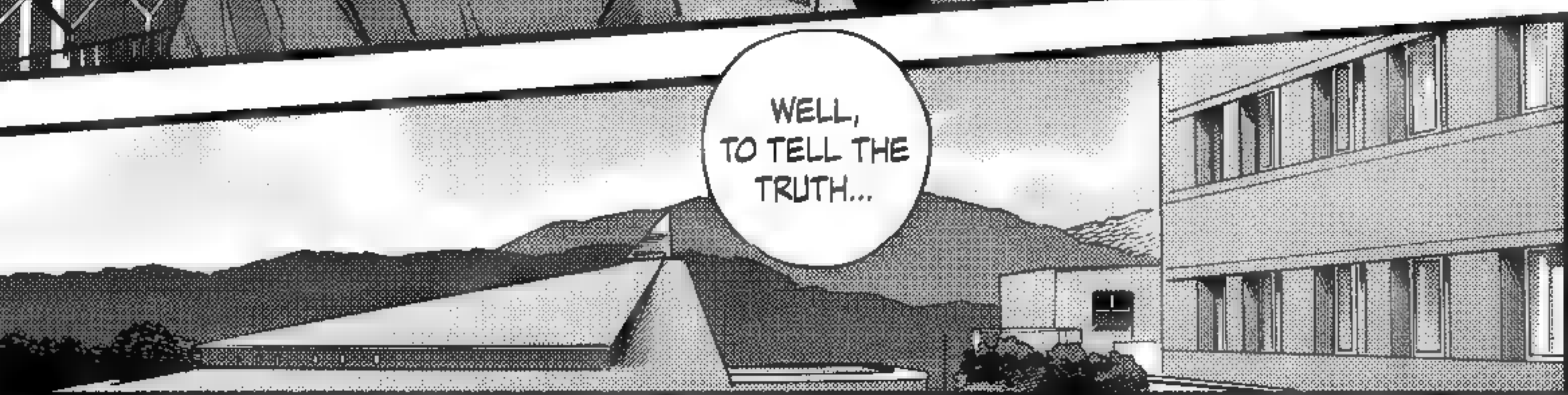












HUH,
THAT'S
IT?

YEAH.

SO YOU'VE
BEEN GOING
OUT PLACES
WITH SOMEONE
FROM WORK?





YOU LOOK LIKE
YOU'RE THINKING
OF CONFESSING!



YOU CAN'T
HURRY LOVE~
Y'KNOW?

...



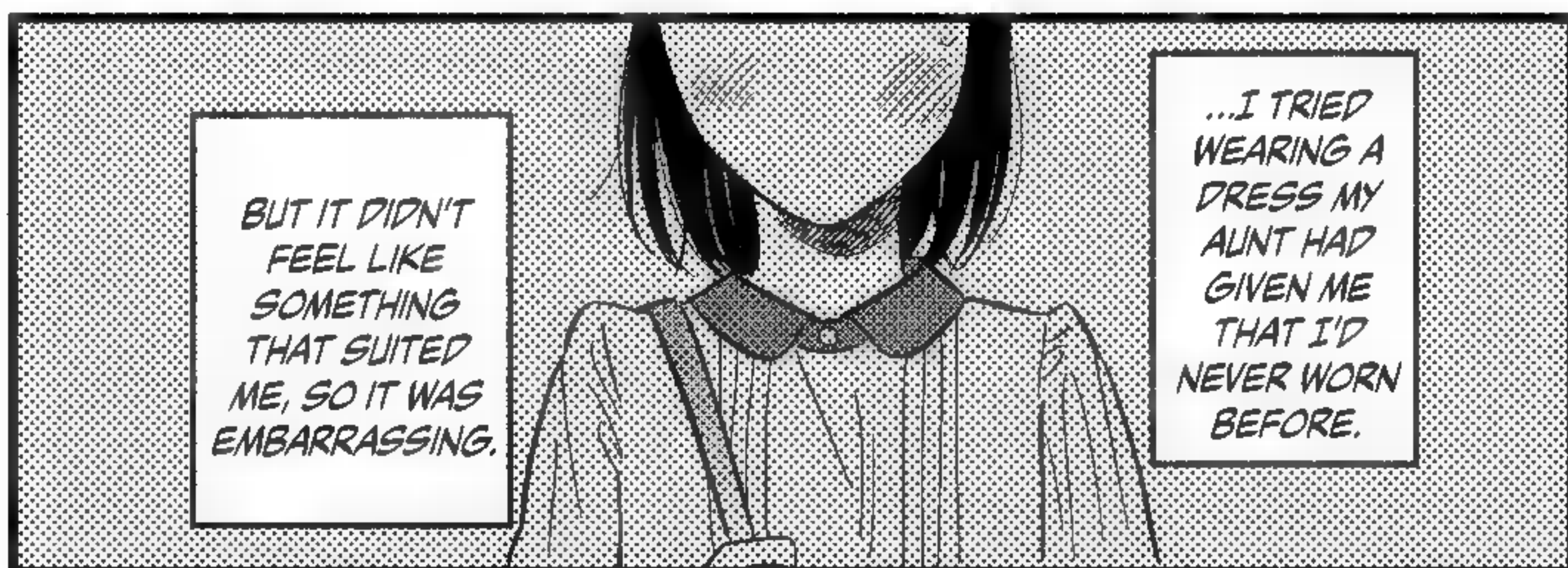
EH?
UH... NO...

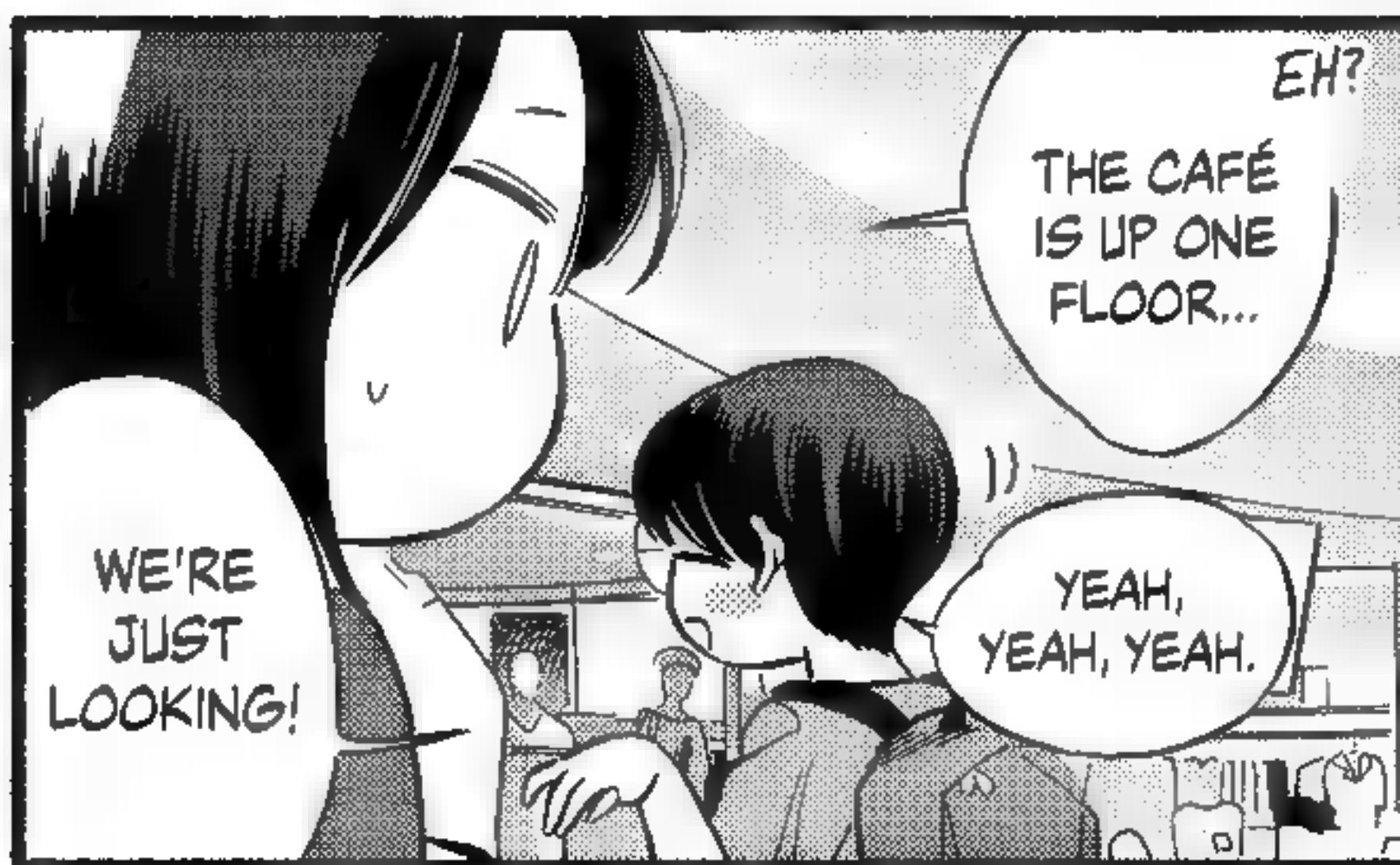


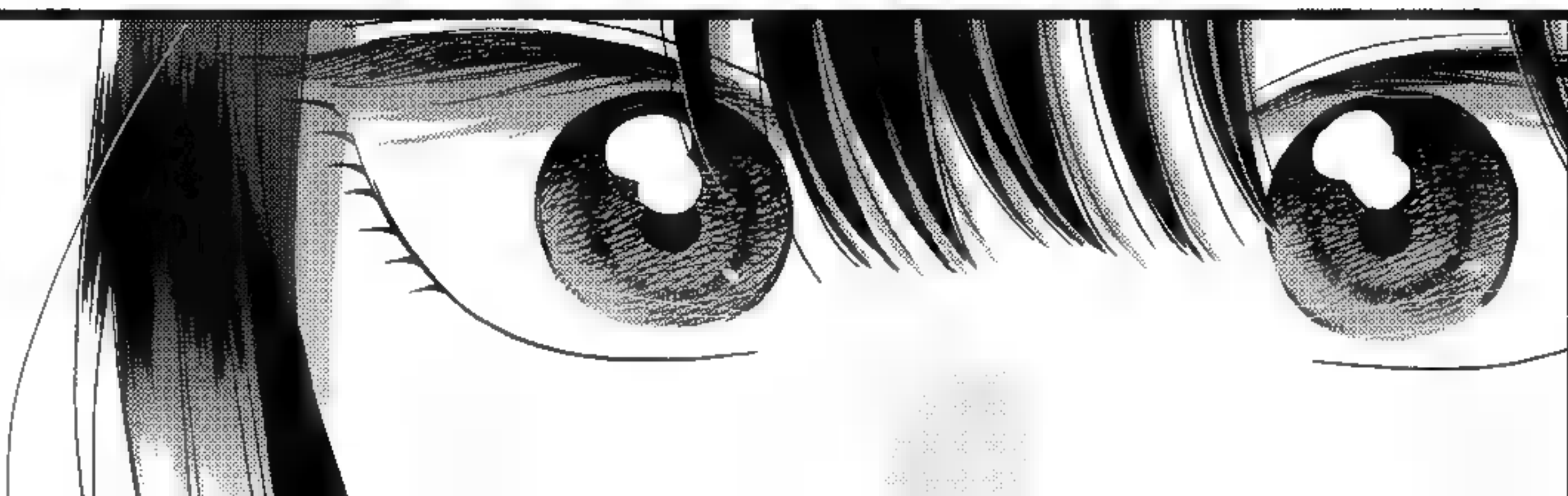
I SURE AM!

YOU'RE
EXCITED?

HOW
EXCITING!











I KIND OF LIKE THIS DRESS--



IT'S GREAT! SO CUTE!



OF COURSE!

TOO PRICEY FOR US!

YIKES, THIS IS PRICEY!

IT IS!

LOOKIT, HOW CUTE!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A DRESS?

YEAH, FOR A DATE...

DOH, NOW YOU'RE LOOKING SERIOUS!

HMM



TRY IT ON...

MOBUKO'S QUIRKS: SHE HATES TRYING THINGS ON, SO SHE'S RARELY EVER DONE IT.

WAHH

CAN WE?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY IT ON?

THIS IS GREAT, NOBUKO-CHAN!



HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

AH!

THAT WAS FAST!



HAVE FUN!

IF THERE'S ANYTHING YOU NEED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.



SHOULDN'T MAKE THEM WAIT...



YES, AND THAT
COLOR LOOKS
GOOD ON YOU!

HOW CUTE!
IT'S SO
REFRESHING!
I LOVE IT!

YES,
I'M DONE...

HM?
IS THAT
IT?

THANKS
VERY
MUCH.

ト
フ
B-BMP
SIGH
は

B-BMP
ト
フ



I REALLY
OWE YOU FOR
EVERYTHING...



PHEW!

WE MADE IT
THROUGH!



MAKEUP, A
HAIRSTYLING,
NAILS AND
PERFUME,
A FACIAL,
SOFTEN YOUR
SKIN...

THERE'S A
BUNCH OF OTHER
THINGS I'D LIKE
TO TRY TO MAKE
YOU EVEN
CUTER...



NO SWEAT,
IT WAS FUN!

PLUS, IT WAS
THE FIRST TIME
WE'VE BEEN
OUT CLOTHES
SHOPPING!



NOT
AT ALL.

NOOO!
NOW I'M JUST
MEDDLING!



THE CLOTHES
I BOUGHT TO
SPEND THE
DAY IN...

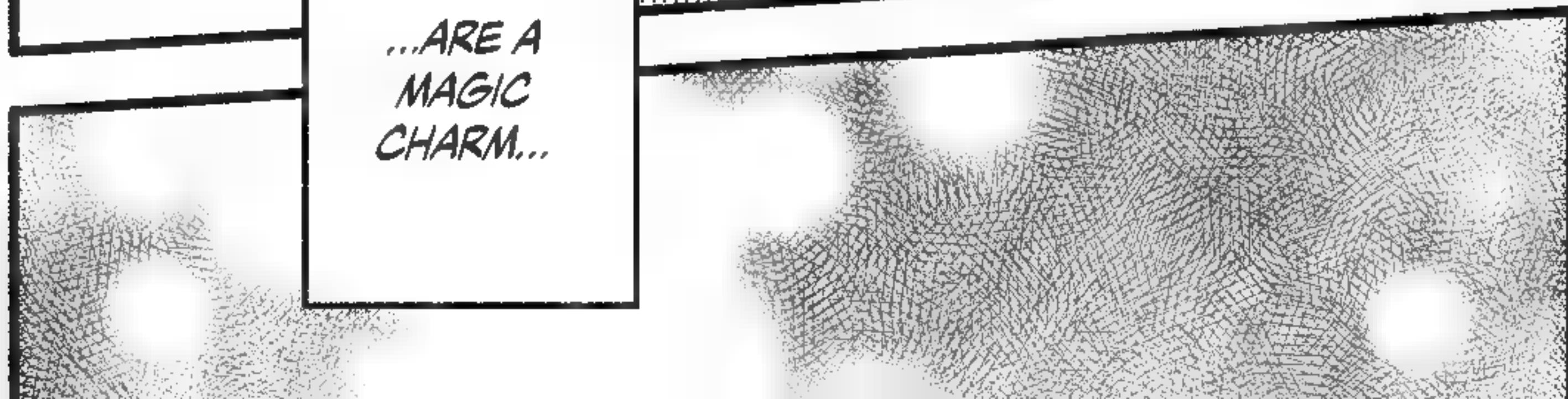
THANK YOU,
FUMI-CHAN.

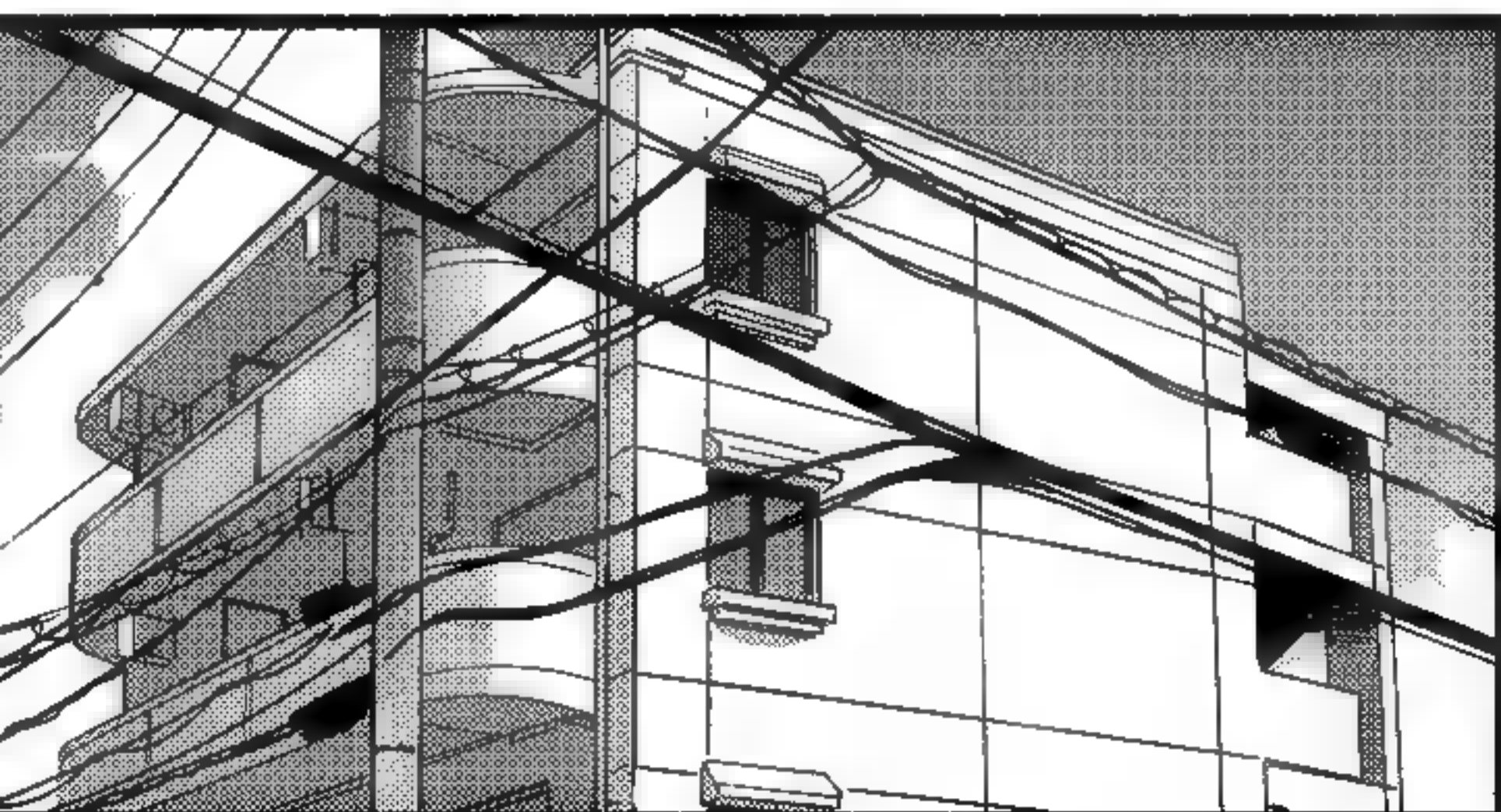


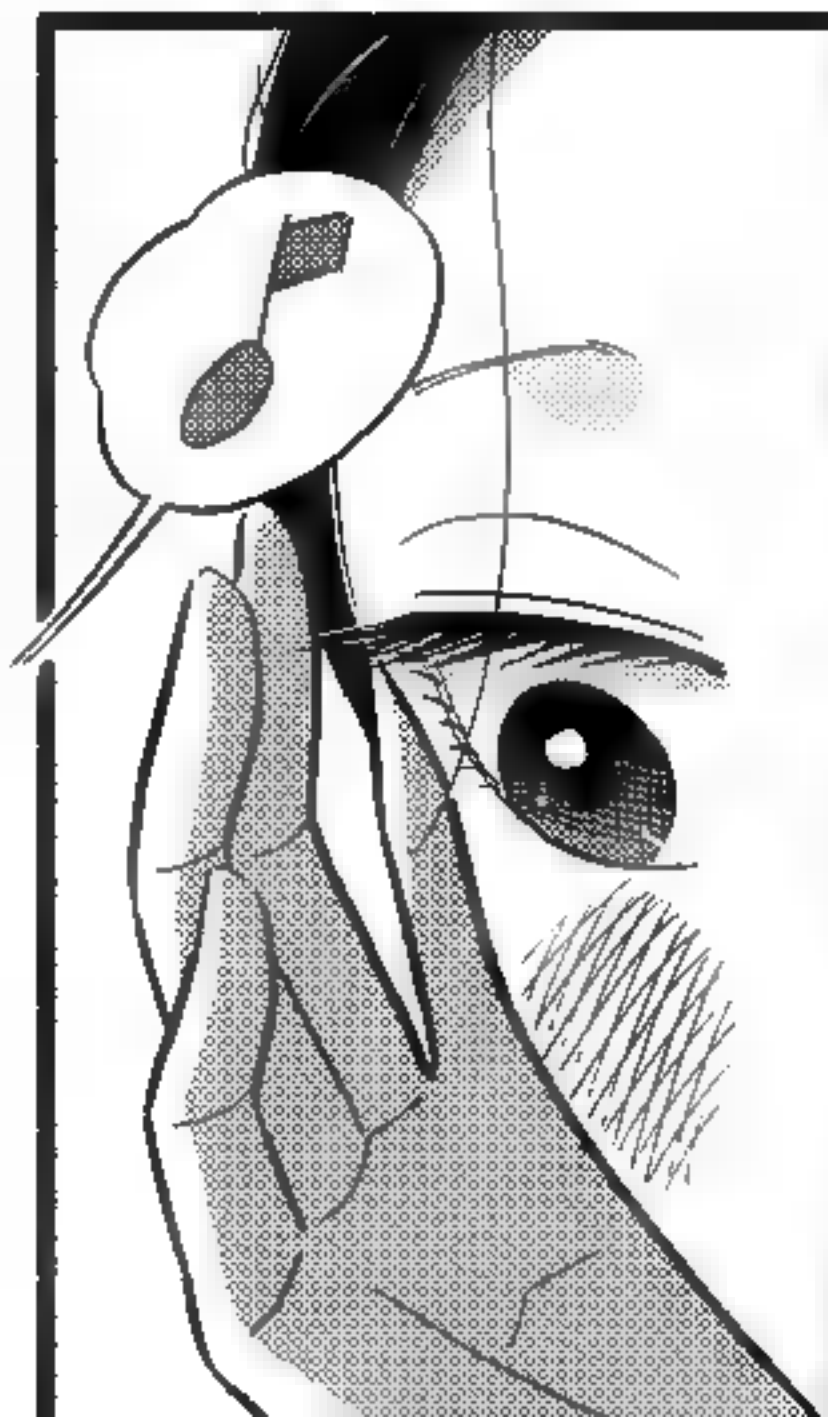
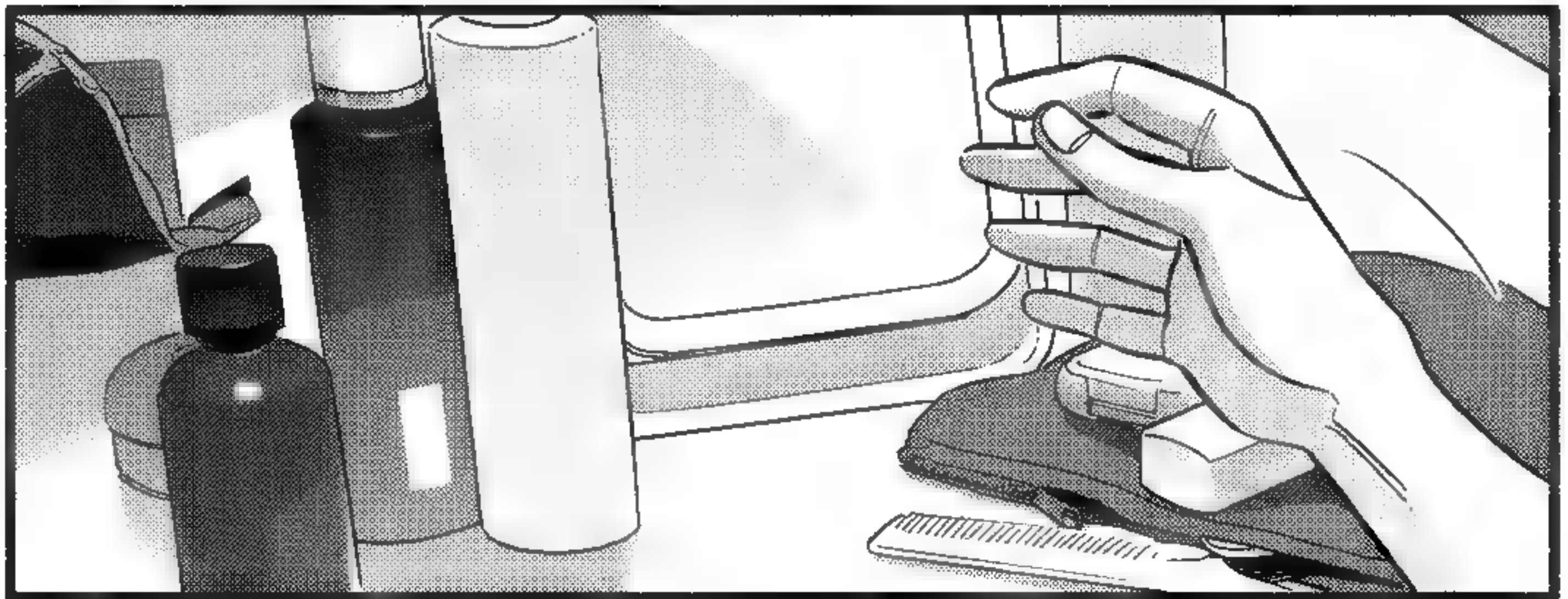
...WITH
THE GUY
I LIKE...



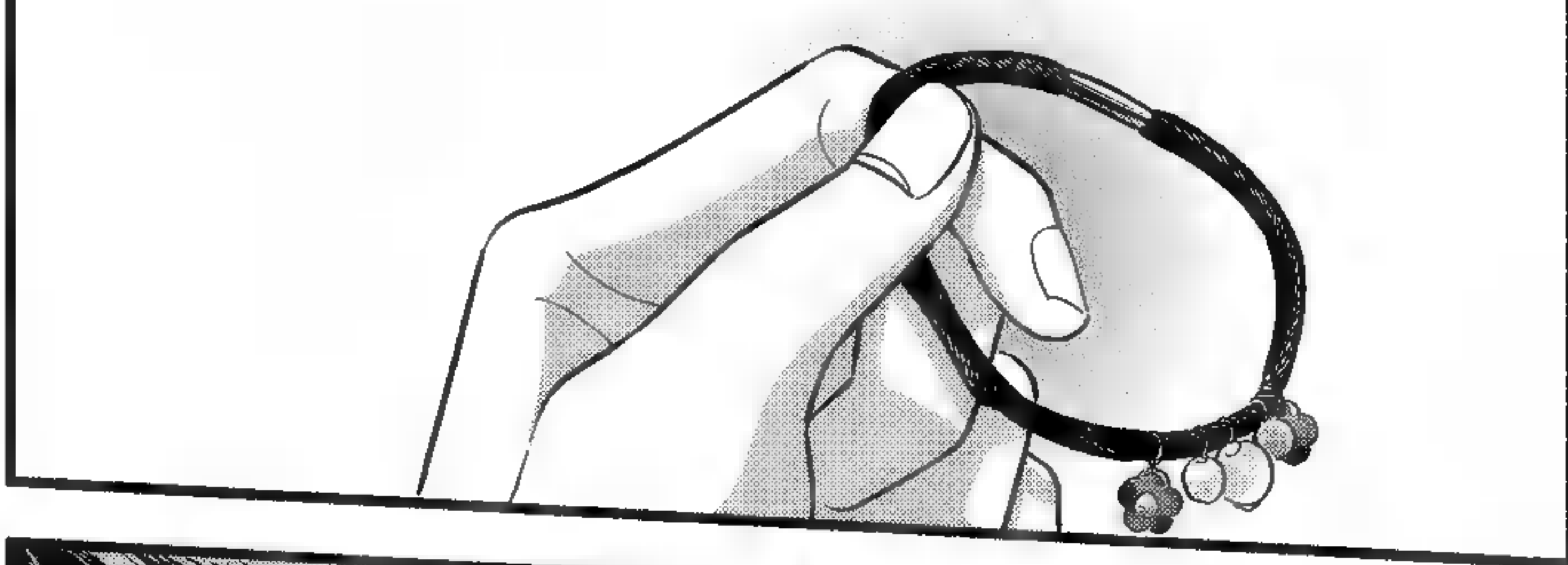
...ARE A
MAGIC
CHARM...

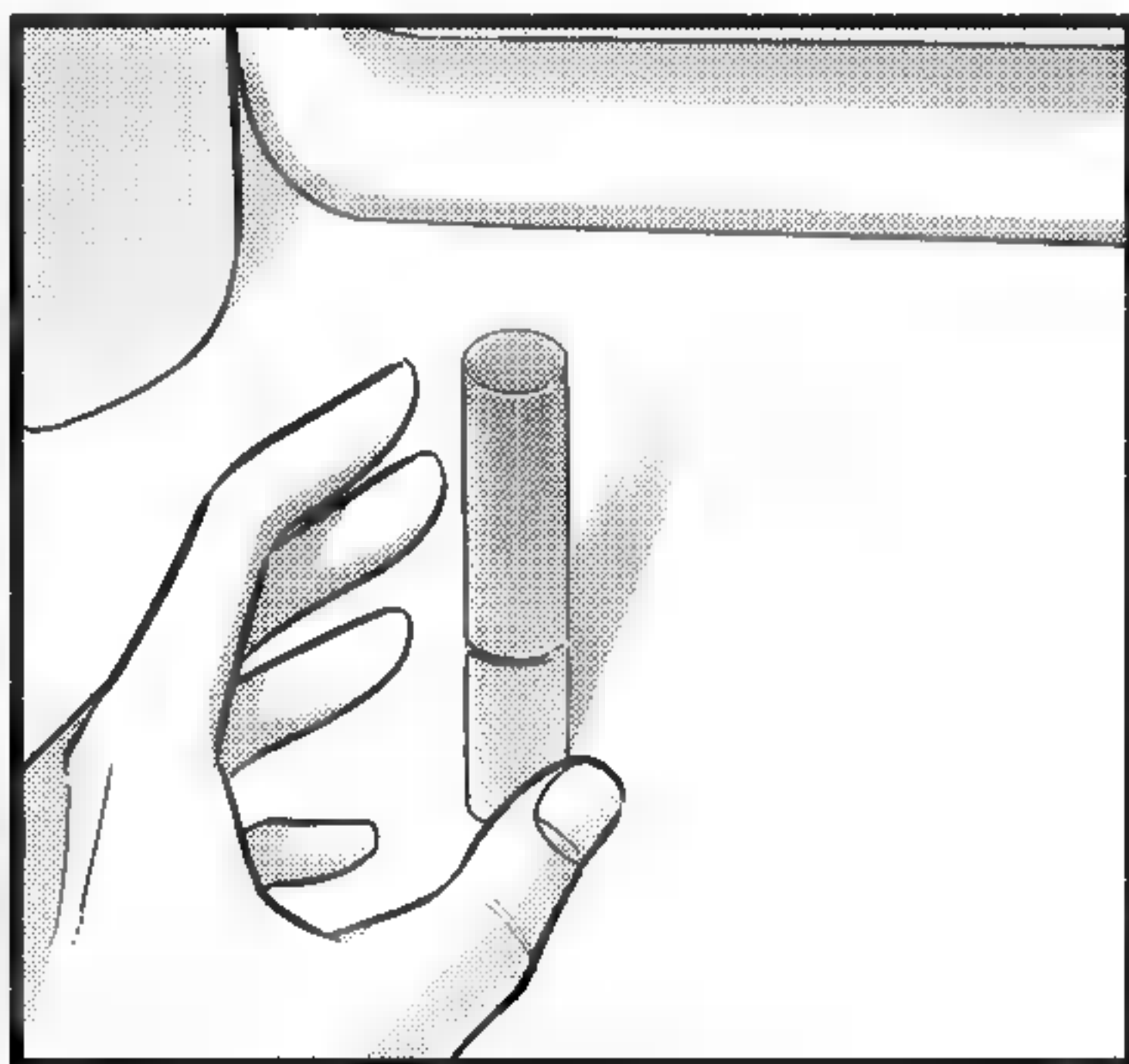


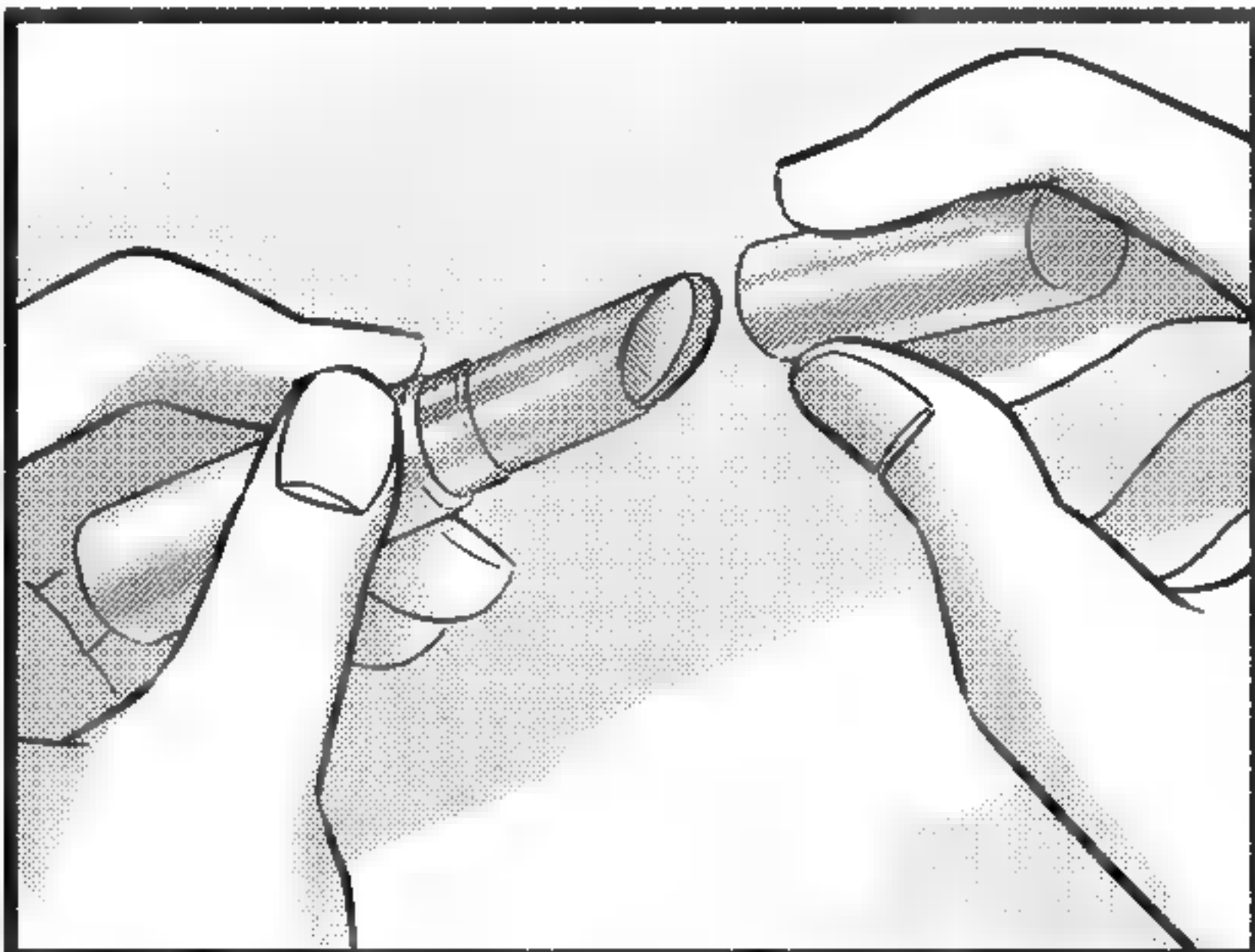








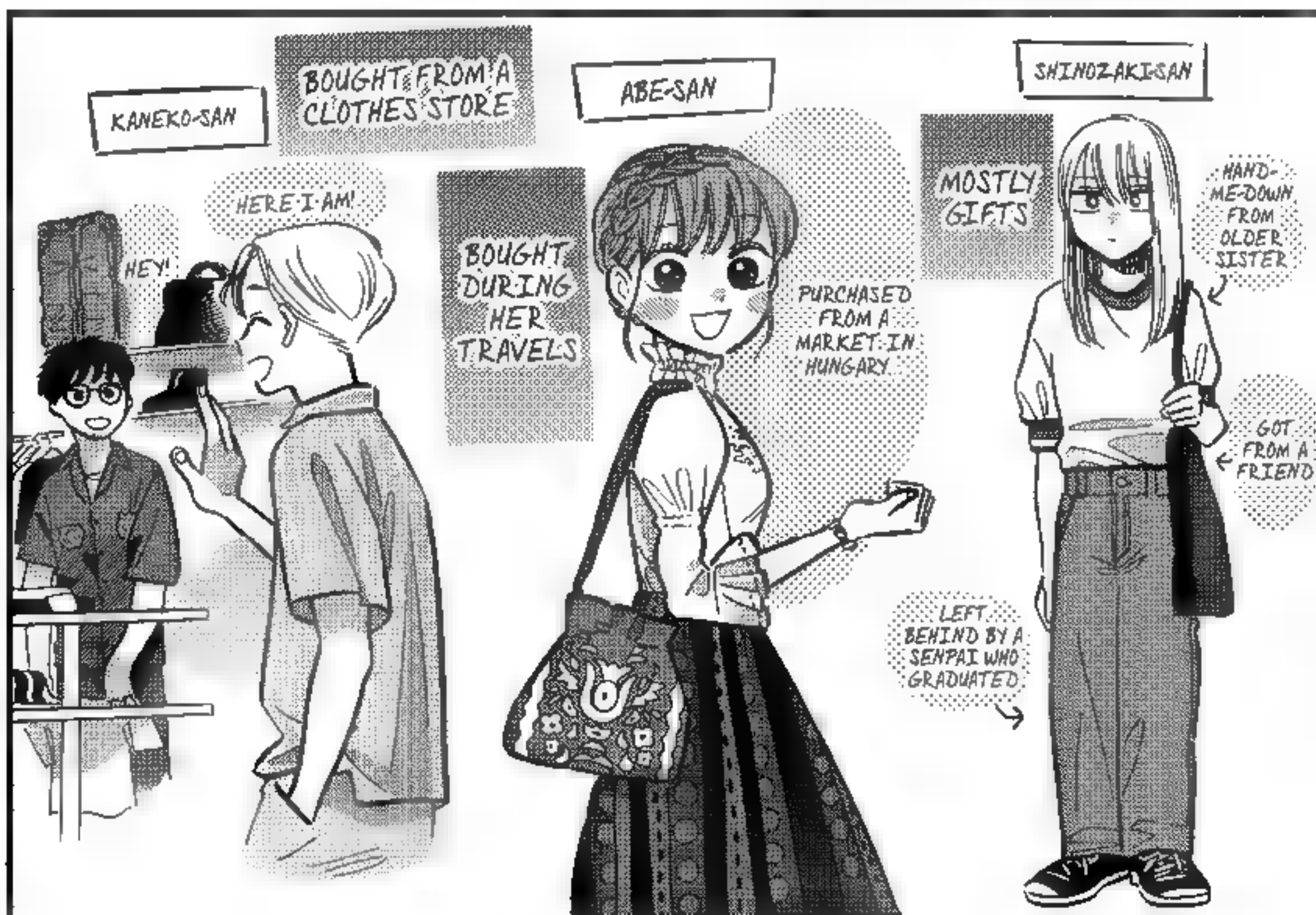








EVERYONE'S CLOTHES STYLES





**A SIDE
CHARACTER'S
LOVE STORY**
Akane Tamura

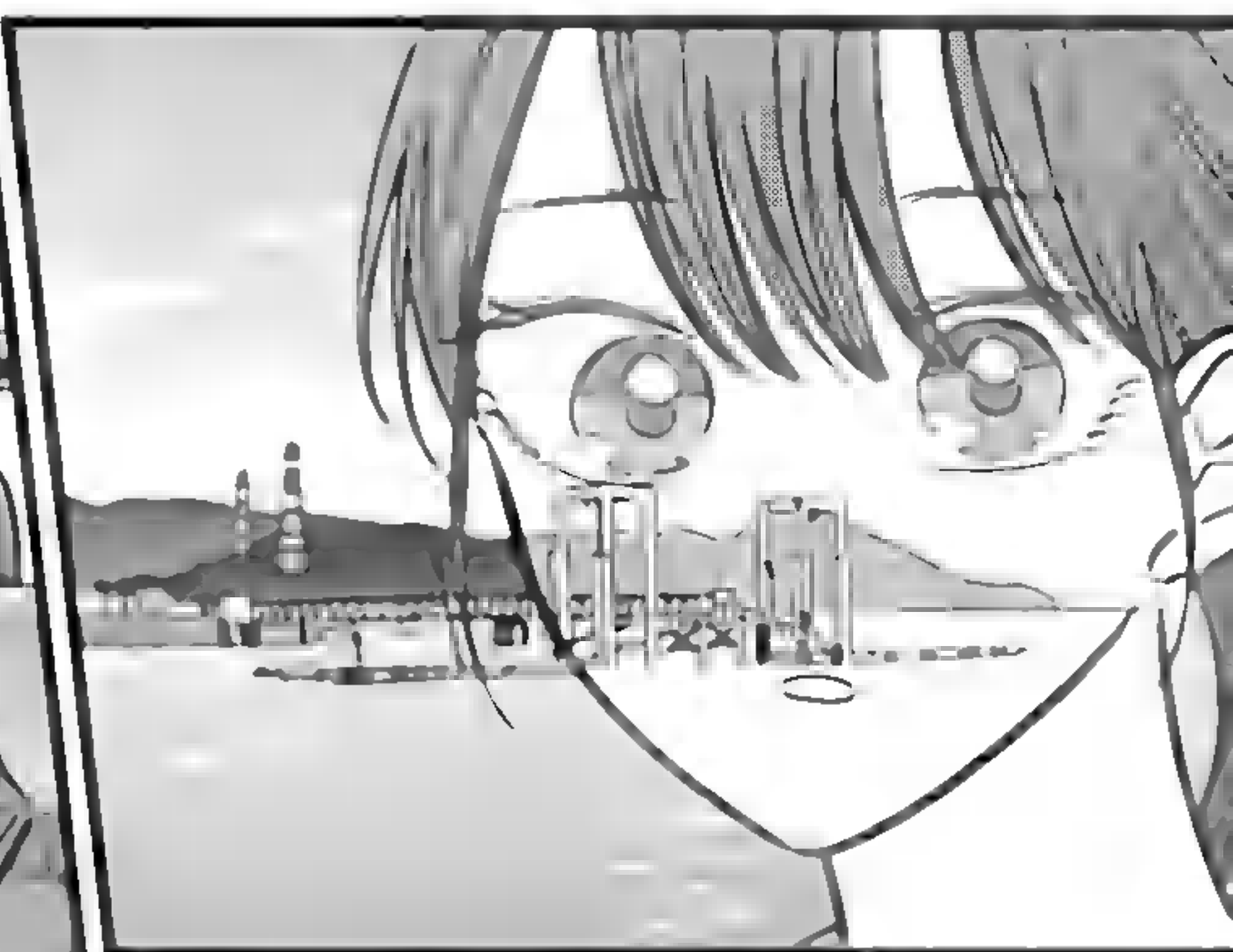


A black and white photograph of a train passing through a town with mountains in the background. A white rectangular box with black text is overlaid on the image.

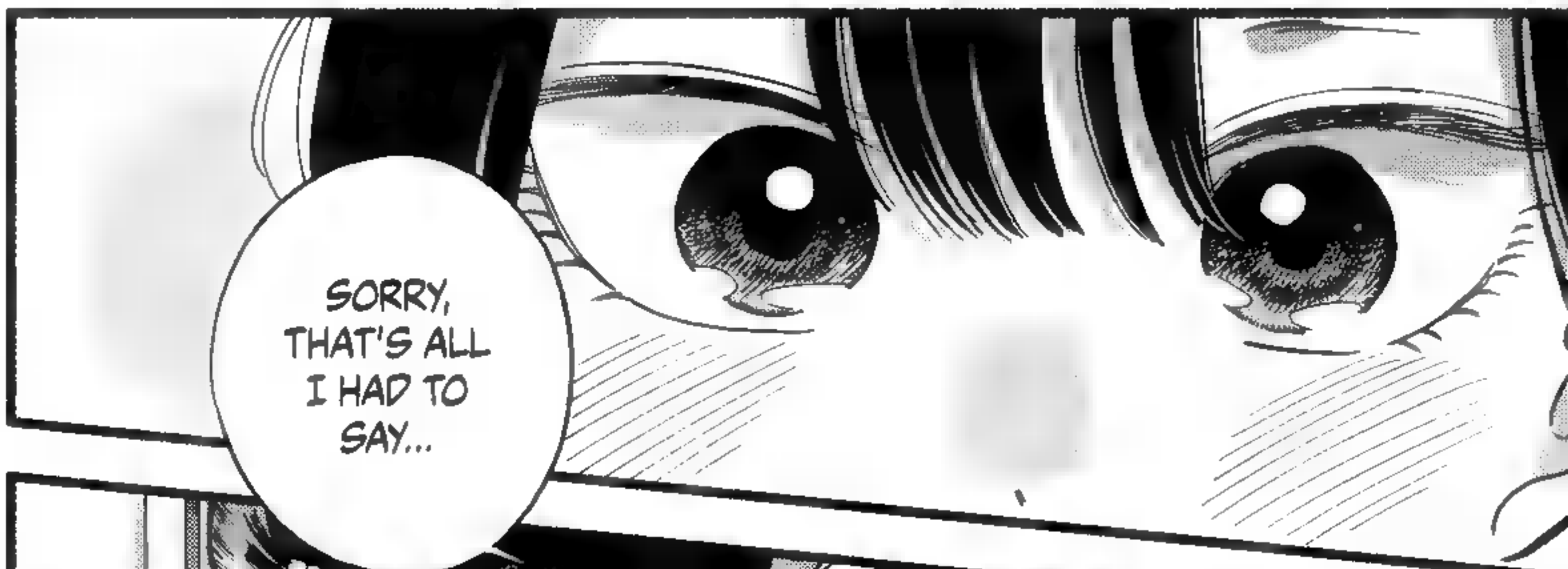
I'M OFF TO
THE STATION
WHERE I'M
MEETING
IRIE-KUN.





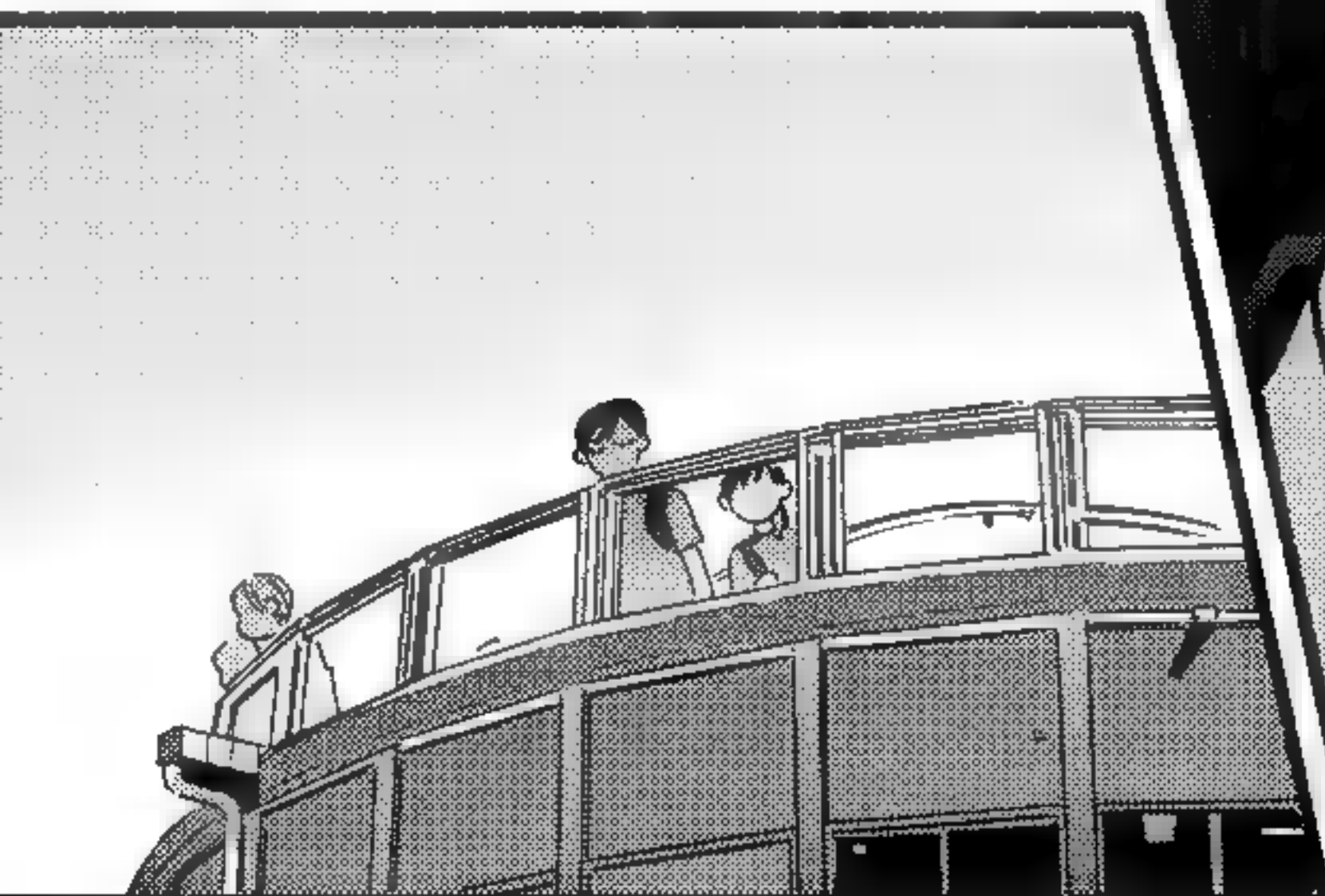




















I LOVED
CROUCHING
BY THE
RIVERBANK AND
SPENDING HOURS
SEARCHING
FOR THEM.

WELL, I SAY
"CRYSTALS",
BUT THEY'RE
REALLY TINY.



NO...

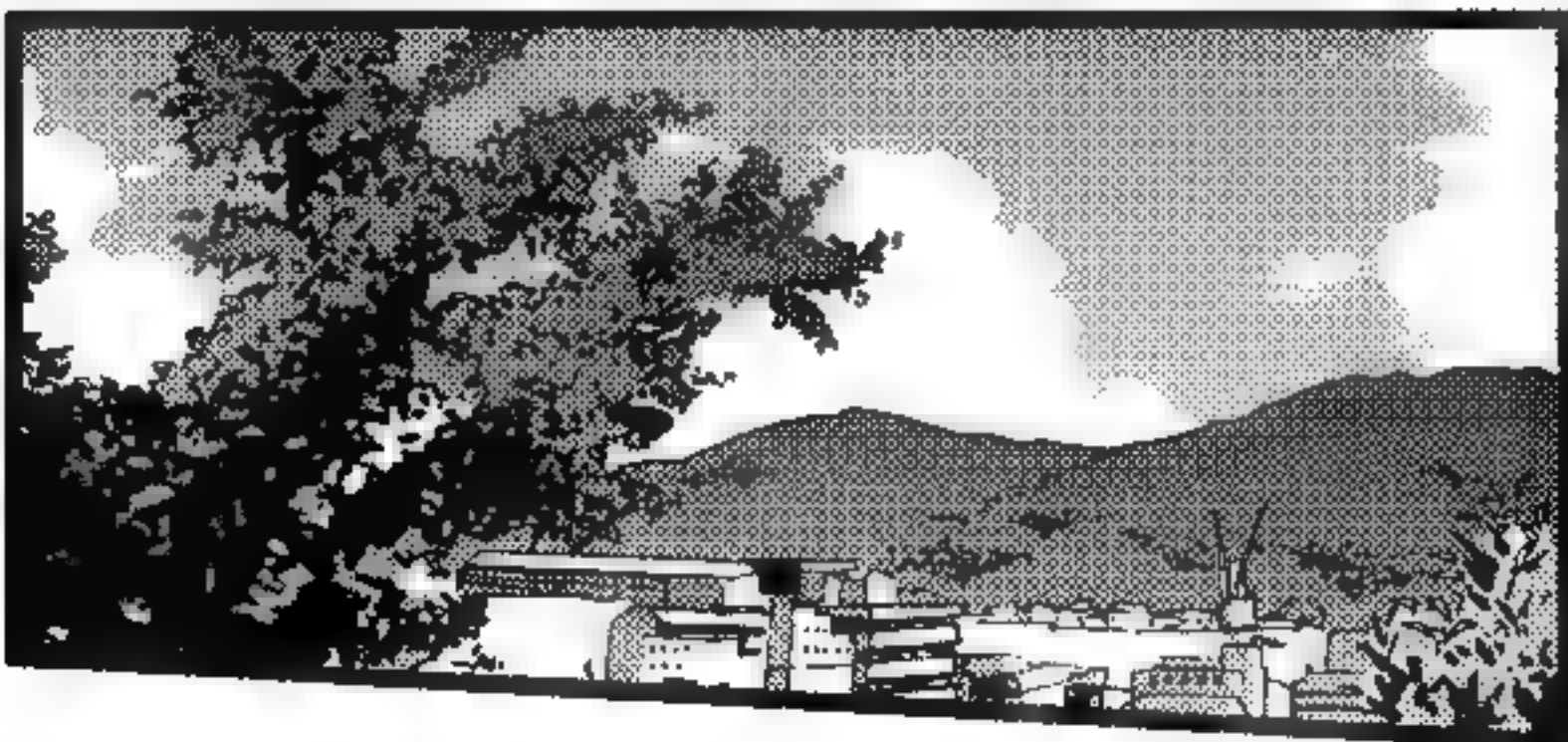
CHAT-
TERING
AWAY...

SOMETIMES I'D
FIND A BIG ONE
AND THEN I'D
NAME IT...
UH,
SORRY TO
GO OF ON A
TANGENT...



THAT'S A
WONDERFUL
MEMORY.





YES!

AND IT'S
SHADED,
TOO!

LOOKS
LIKE A
DOWNHILL
SLOPE.



SOON...

...THE SUN
WILL BE
SETTING.





...IN
OTHER WORDS,
EVENING IS WHEN
THE REAL BATTLE
BEGINS!



BUT WHEN
IT GETS DARK,
THAT'S WHEN YOU
GOTTA CREATE
THE RIGHT
ATMOSPHERE.

UP TILL THEN,
YOU GUYS'LL
BE HAVING A
GOOD OLD TIME
AND GETTING
CLOSER.

AND
THEN...



THAT'S
RIGHT!

BATTLE...



...YOU SAY IT.

RIGHT.





WHEN I
TELL HER...



...EVERY-
THING UP
TILL NOW...



...THE
CLOSING
DISTANCE



BETWEEN
US...

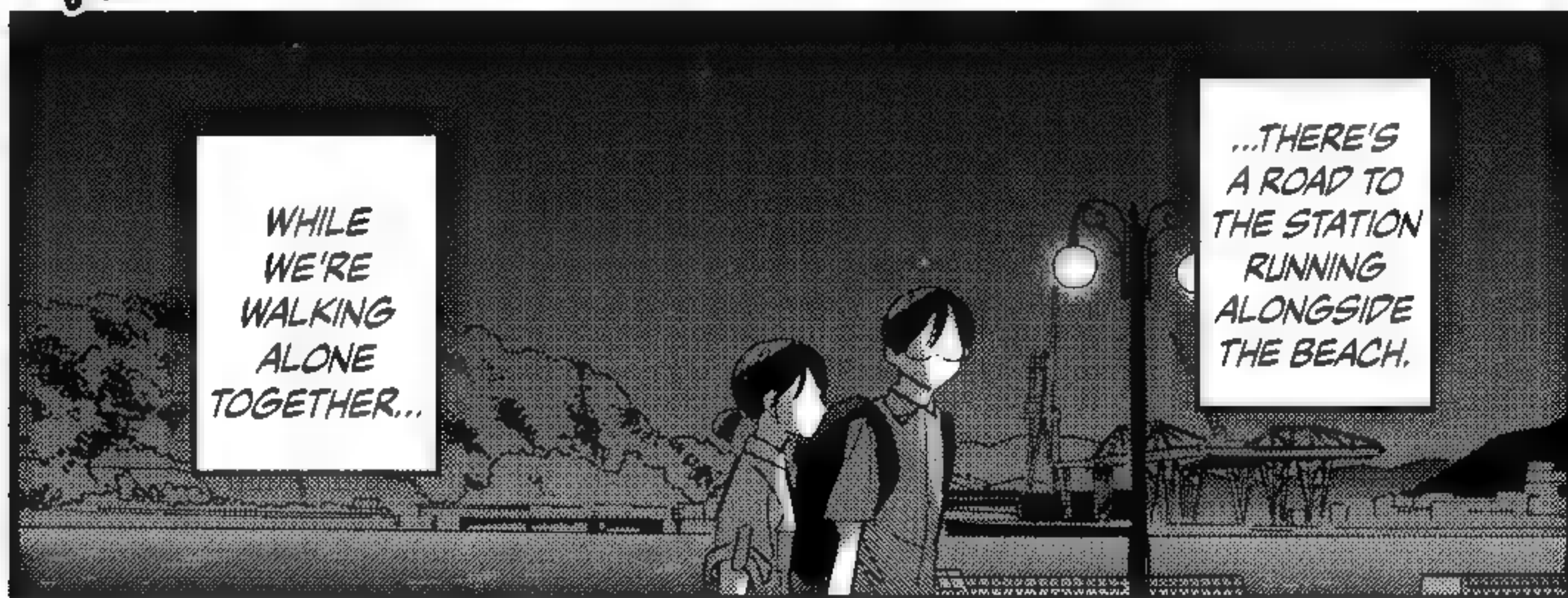
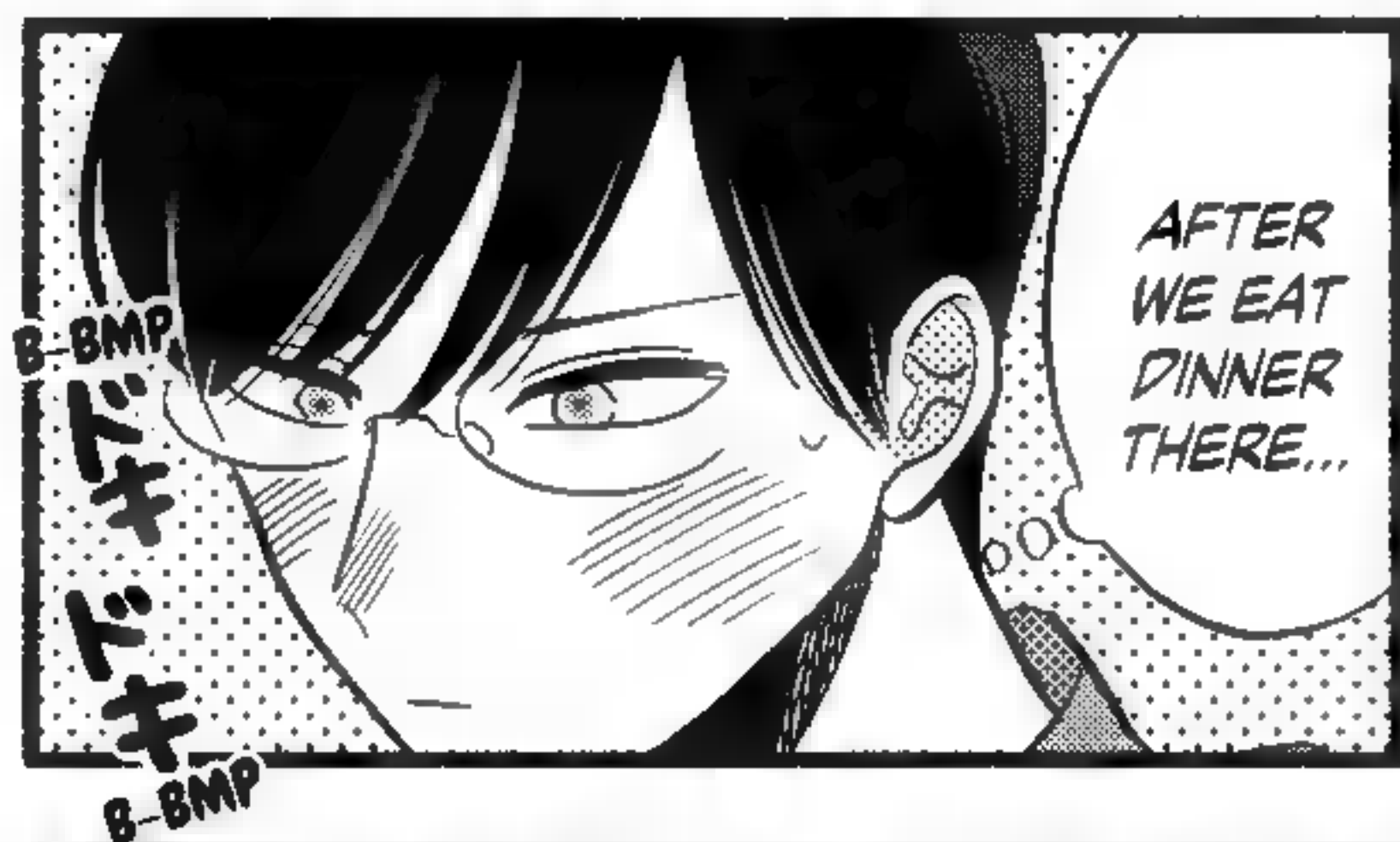


WE'VE
PILED UP,
LITTLE BY
LITTLE...



...THE
MEMO-
RIES











JUST MY
LUCK...



WHY
TODAY,
OF ALL
DAYS?!

NO, IT'S
MY FAULT
FOR NOT
DOING MY
RESEARCH...



THIS FESTIVAL
HAS GOT TO BE
FATE TELLING ME
TO ACCEPT IT
AND GIVE UP...

WHAT IF THIS
IS A SIGN THAT I
SHOULD GIVE UP
FOR TODAY?!

HAHA
HAHA

HMM



STILL...



YEAH, NO
WAY THIS IS
THE RIGHT
ATMOSPHERE
FOR...

HEY!

CHEERS!

A
HA
HA
HA

OH, REALLY?
I GOT A
FORTUNE
COIN
THERE!







FATE HAS
NOTHING TO
DO WITH IT.



YES,
IT'S GREAT.



I JUST
WANT TO
SPEND MORE
TIME WITH
TANAKA-SAN.



SO...



WELL THEN,
LET'S GO CHECK
IT OUT.

OKAY.

...I WILL
TELL HER...

...HOW
I FEEL.

AT THE OBSERVATION DECK









BUT
BEFORE
THAT...



...



OH!
HEY,
YOU
TWO
KIDS!

YEAH, AND
IT SMELLS
GREAT.

EVERYTHING
LOOKS
DELICIOUS

...WE
SHOULD
PROBABLY
EAT SOME-
THING...



I'LL GIVE YA OUR SNS
IF YOU LIKE! BY THE WAY,
OUR MOST POPULAR
TOPPING FOR COUPLES
IS A HEART

OHH...

WHOA,
HOW
CUTE!



JUST ONE
OUGHTA BE
BIG ENOUGH
FOR THE TWO OF
YOU TO SHARE,
SO IT'S A GOOD
DEAL! AND IT'S
LOADED WITH
FRUIT!

HEY,
IT'S SURE
IS HOT,
RIGHT?
WANNA
COOL OFF
WITH SOME
SHAVED ICE?

YEAH!



YEAH,
DEFINITE-
LY.

EVENTUALLY
BACKED AWAY

SHE
CERTAINLY
WAS ENER-
GETIC.





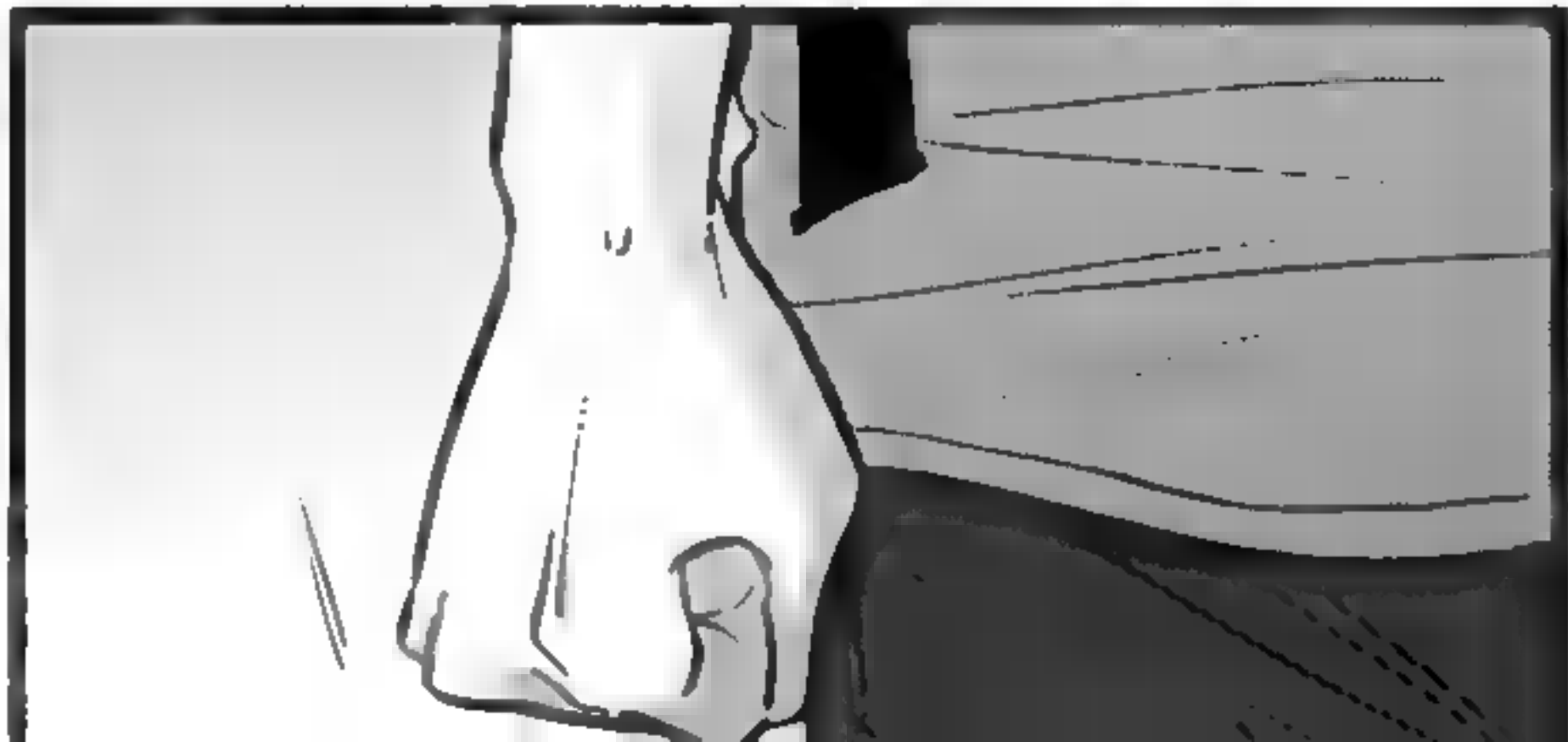
FINALLY...

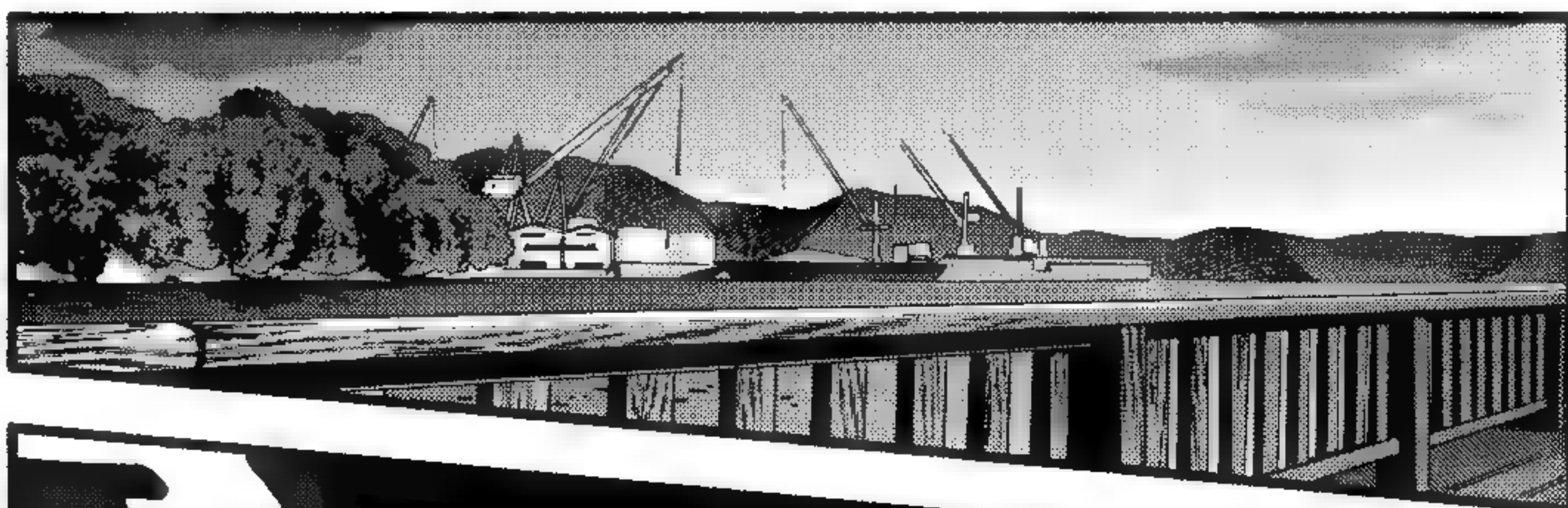


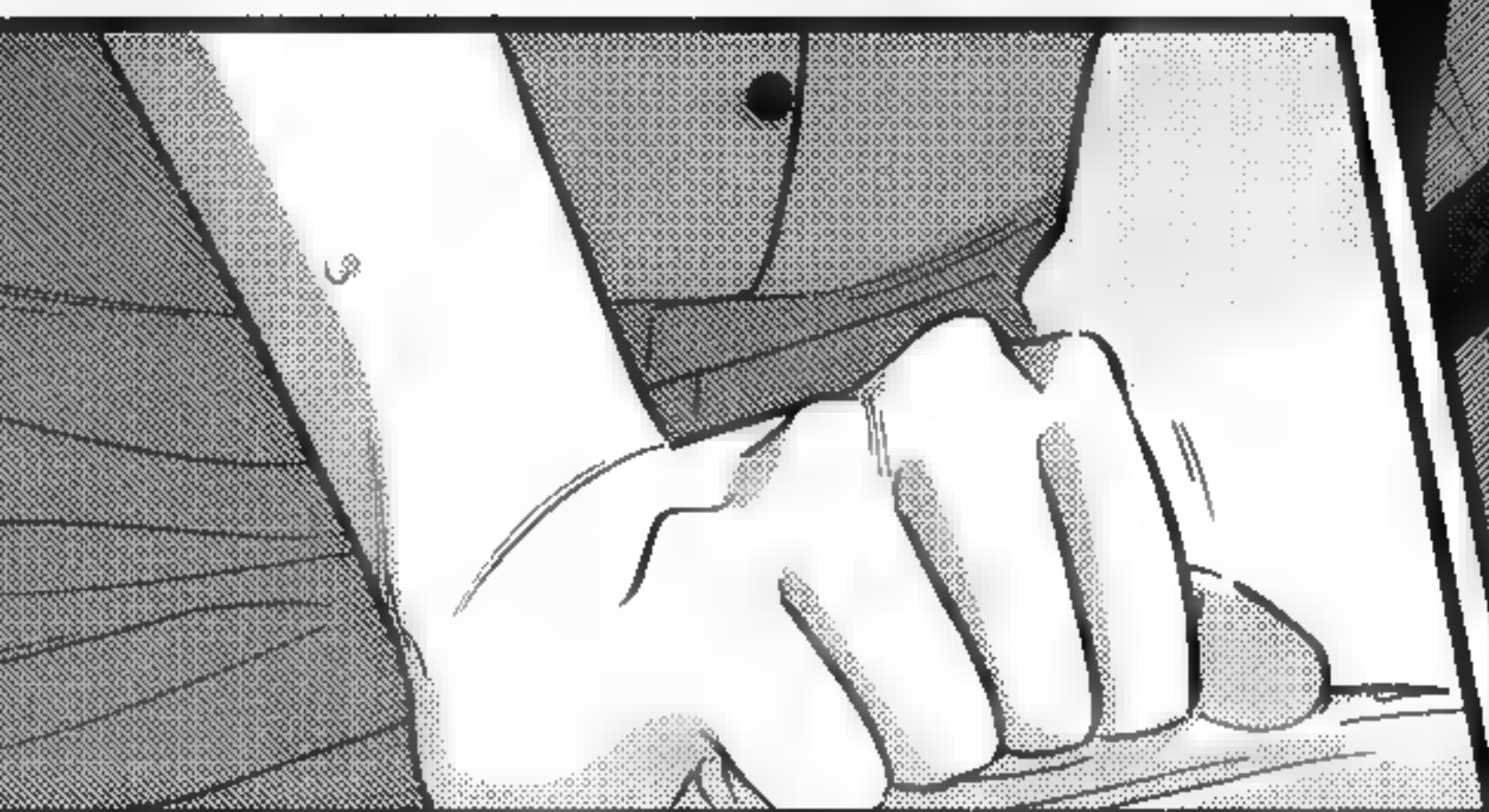
...INTO
WORDS...

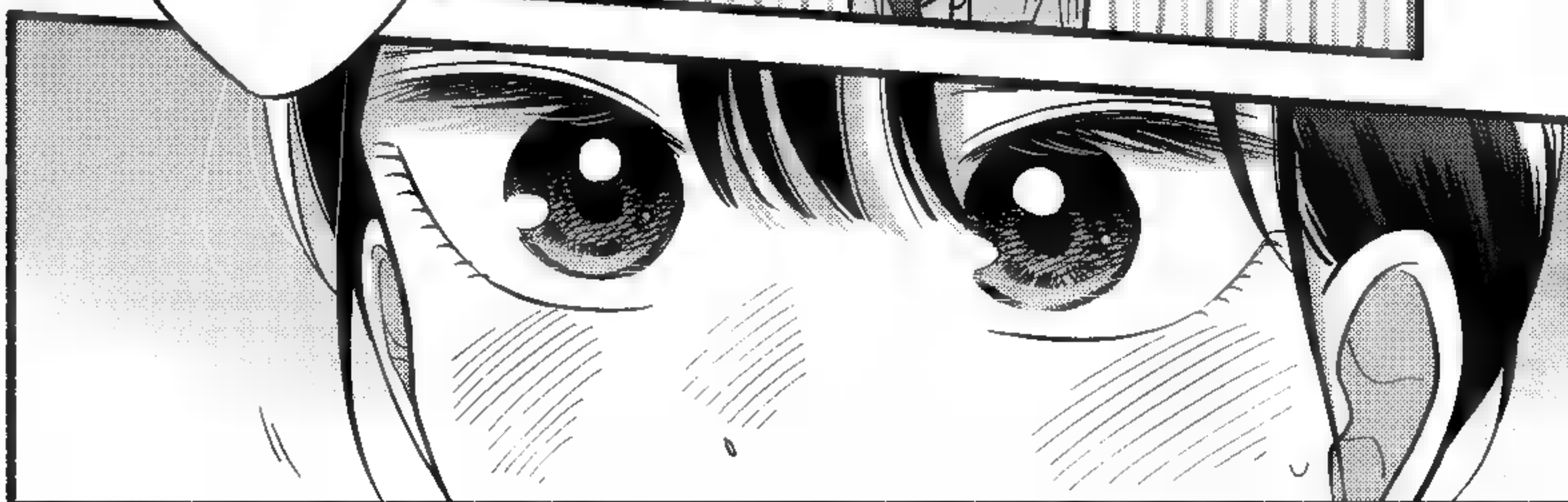
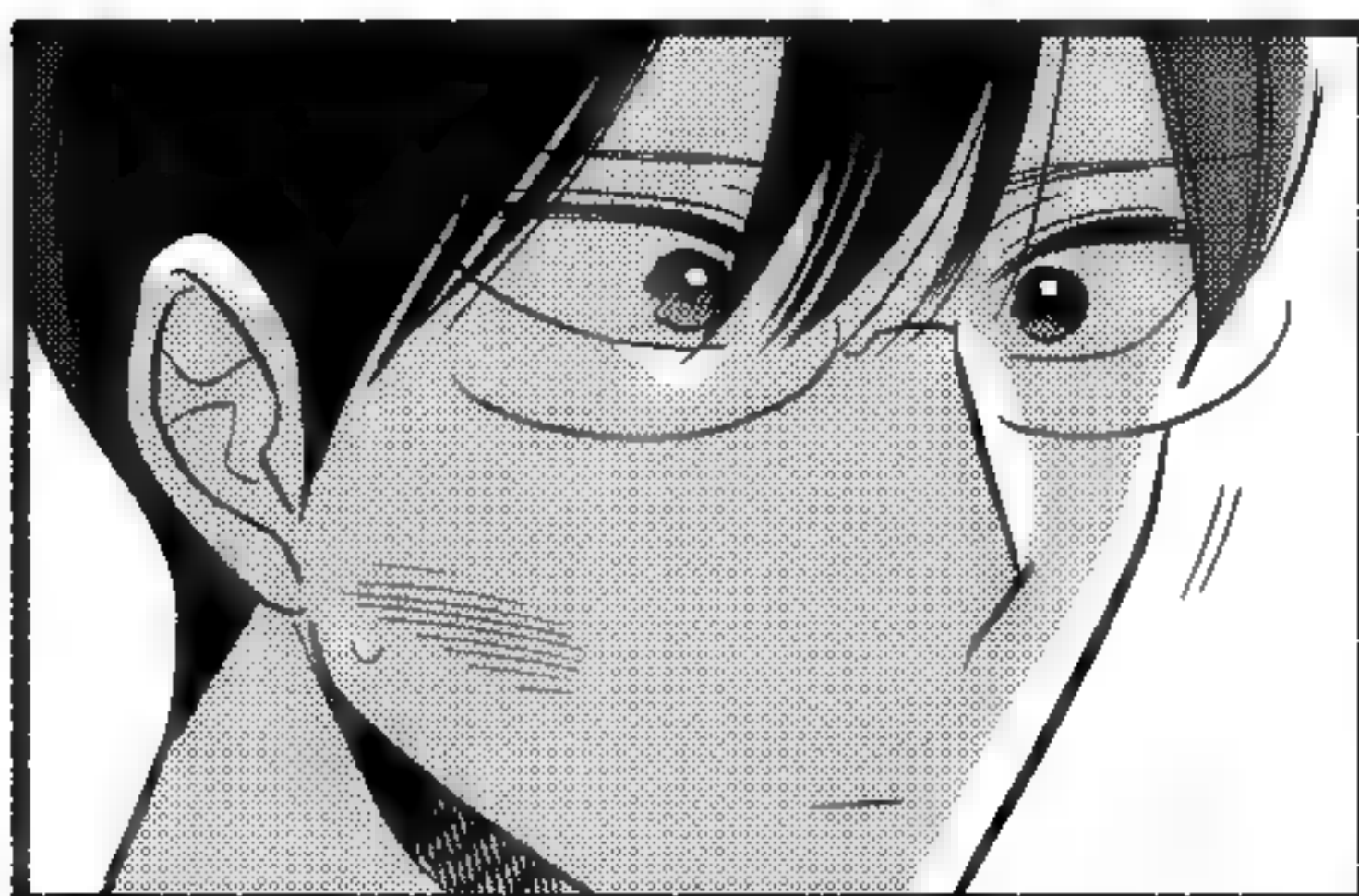


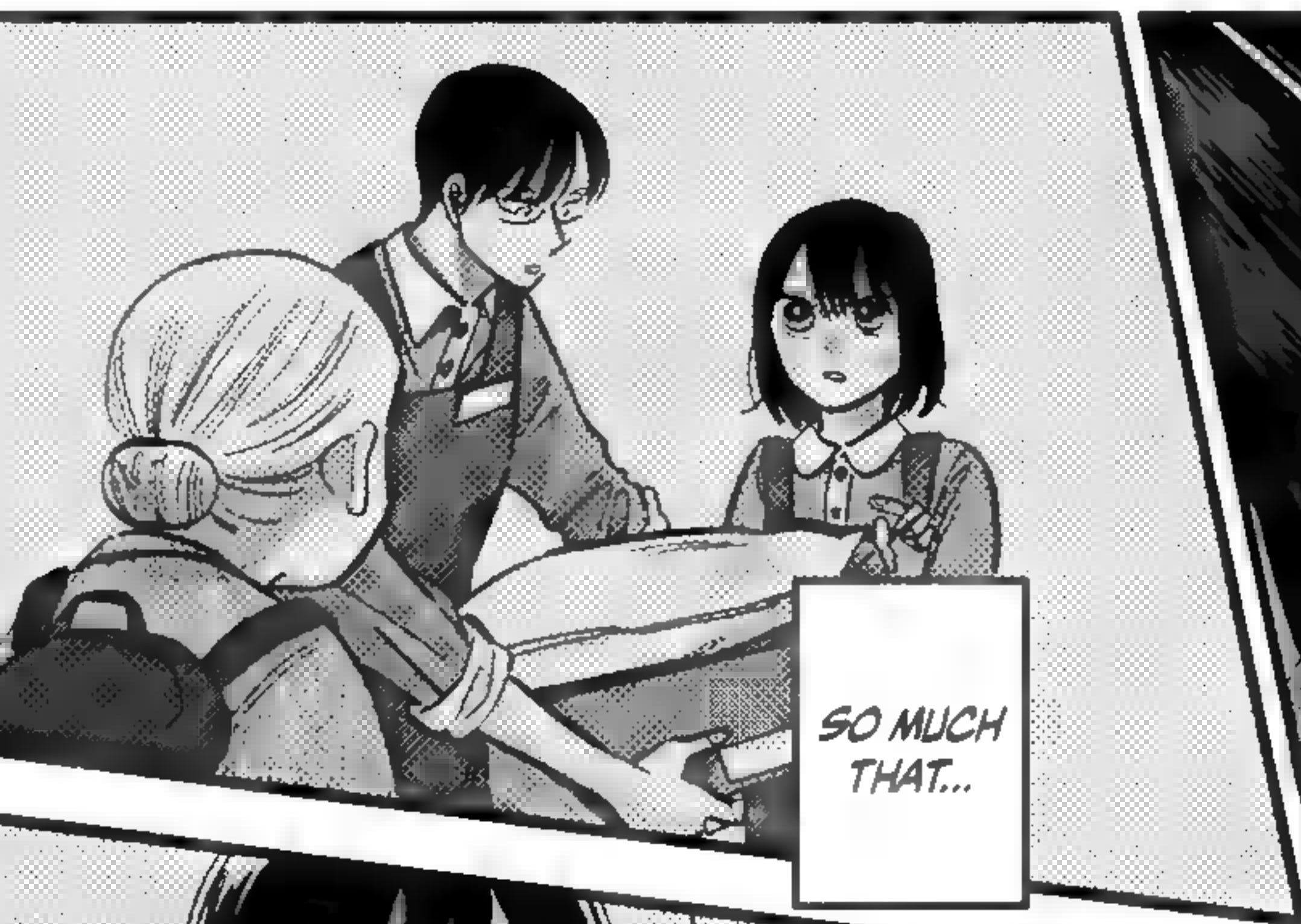
...I'LL
PUT MY
FEEL-
INGS...













...REMEMBER-
ING THOSE
MOMENTS.



I--



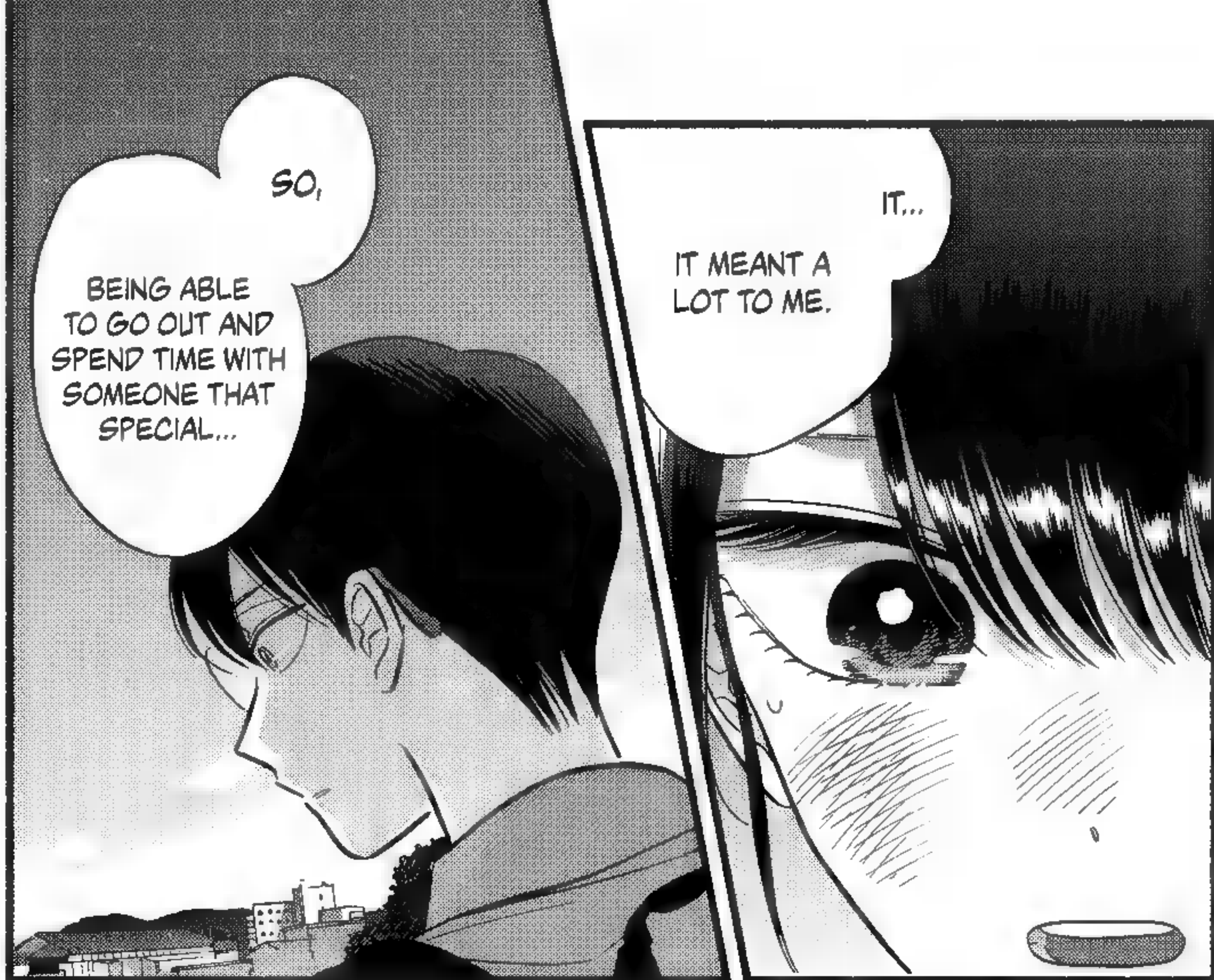
BLUSH
+

I REALLY
DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING
SPECIAL...

SORRY IF
I'VE KIND OF
RUINED THE
MOOD...



IT'S OKAY.





SO, I...



I STARTED
WISHING
THAT I COULD
BE SPECIAL
TO HIM.



I STARTED
WISHING I
COULD SPEND
MORE TIME
WITH IRIE-KUN.

BUT...



I'D NEVER
EVEN ONCE
CONSIDERED
TELLING HIM
HOW I FELT.





"YOU CAN'T LET
'KEEPING THINGS
HOW THEY ARE'
BE THE END OF
THE LINE."



EVEN
THOUGH
SHE'D
SPELLED
IT OUT FOR
ME...



...I
COULDN'T
FACE IT.



IF...



...I NEVER
MADE A
MOVE...

...THEN
ONE
DAY...

...WE'D
SURELY
END UP
PARTING.

I
WANTED
THESE
DAYS...
...TO
GO ON
LIKE THIS
FOREVER.

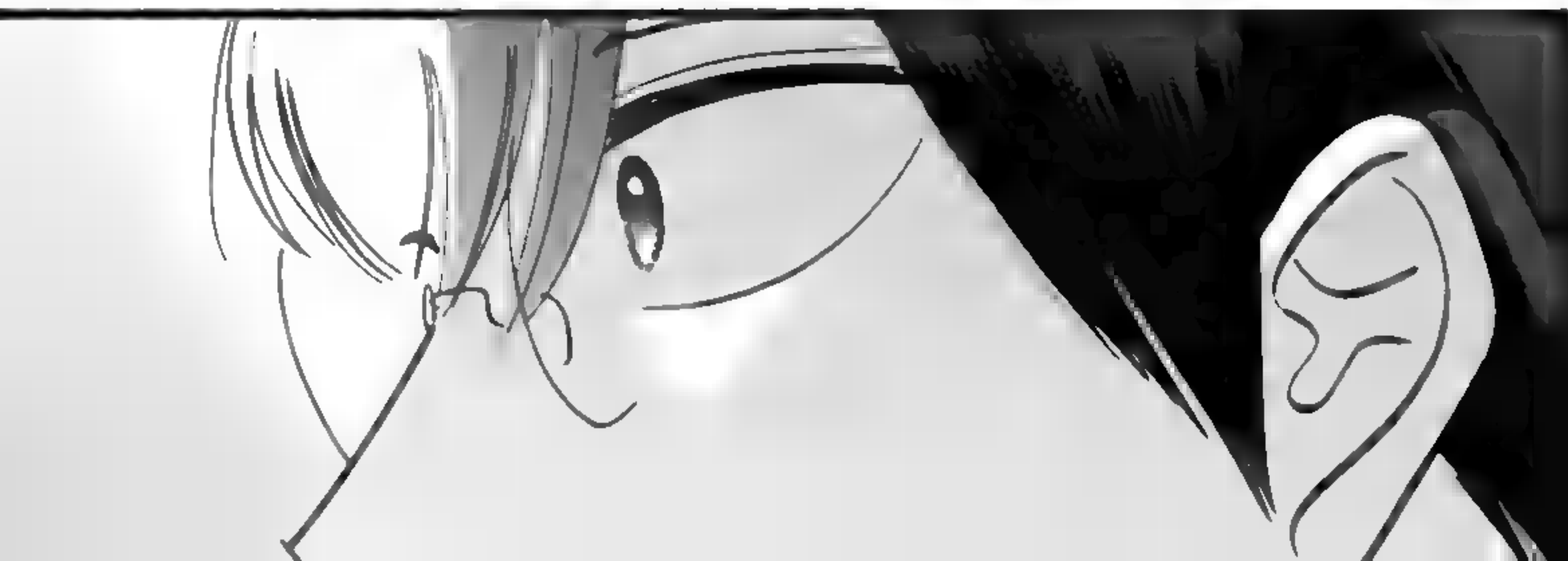
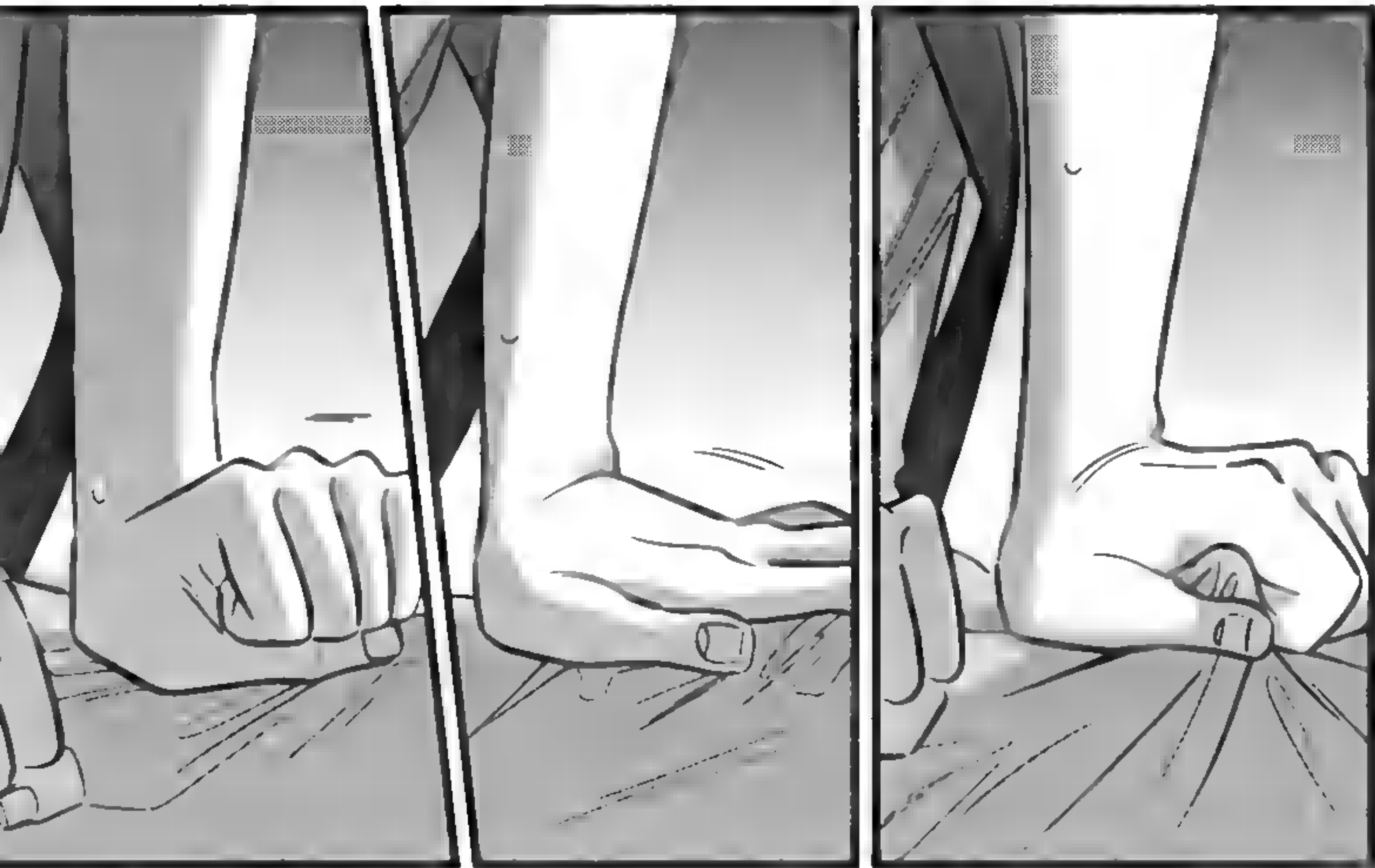
EVEN IF
THEY WERE
COMPLETELY
ORDINARY DAYS
FOR YOU...

THESE
TIMES HAVE
BEEN SO
SPECIAL
TO ME,

BUT AT
THE SAME TIME,
I KNEW THAT
WASN'T
POSSIBLE.











...IF IT ALL
ENDS TODAY...



...BECAUSE
I WANTED
TO TELL YOU
SOMETHING.





RIE-KUN.

I LIKE YOU.



I'VE ALWAYS
LIKED YOU,



EVER
SINCE

I MET YOU.



I SAID IT.







ME TOO.



I LIKE YOU,
TOO.





I LIKE YOU,
TANAKA-SAN.



YES.

REALLY.







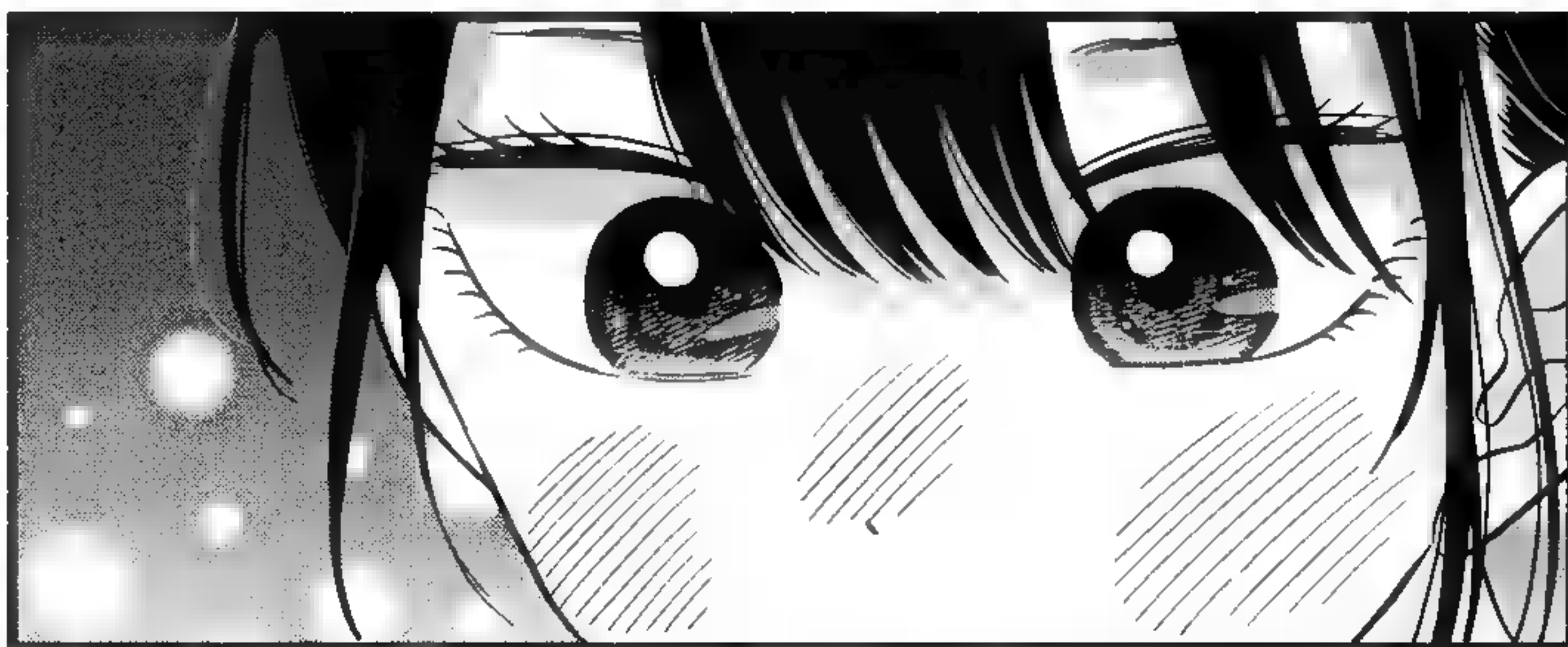
LET'S KEEP
SPENDING TIME
TOGETHER.



FAVORITE STREET FOODS













IT FEELS
LIKE I'M
FLOATING.



LIKE
THERE'S NO
WAY THIS
COULD BE
HAPPENING.

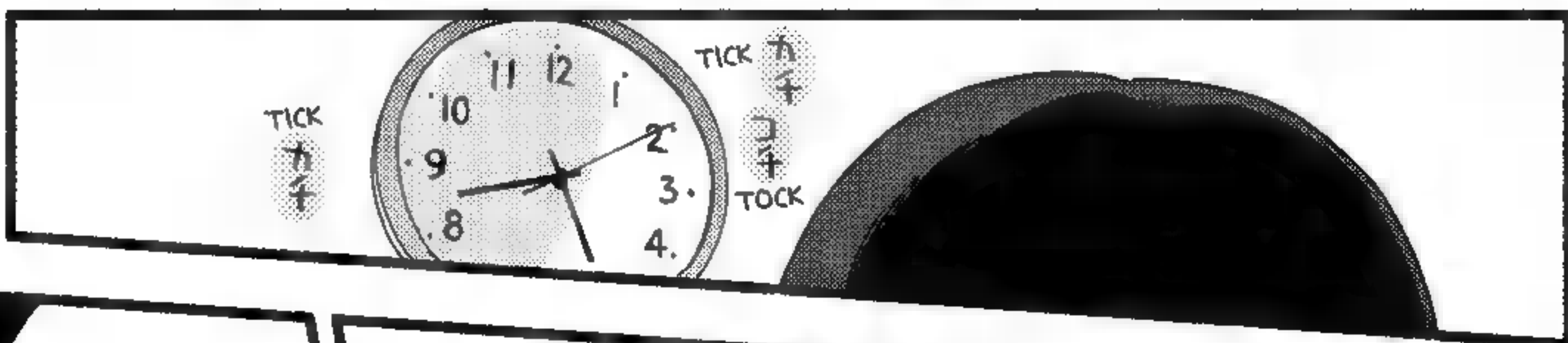


LIKE MY
MIND AND
BODY AREN'T
CONNECTED
ANYMORE.



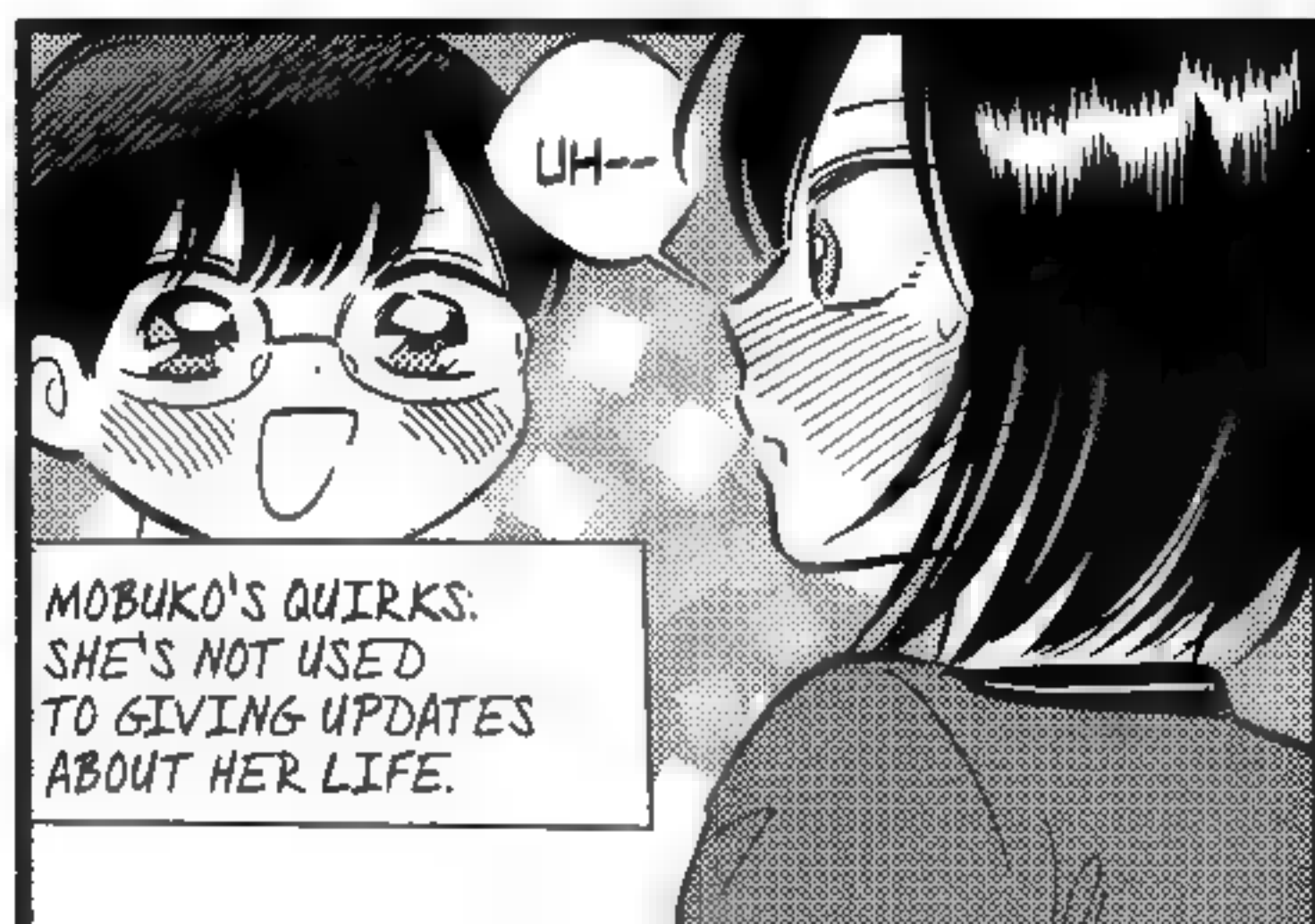
I
STILL...





I CAN'T
THINK OF A
RESPONSE
FOR THE LIFE
OF ME...







I TOLD HIM...

H...HOW I FEEL.

YEAH.



WH--

WHAA-AAT?!

HUH...



PHEW

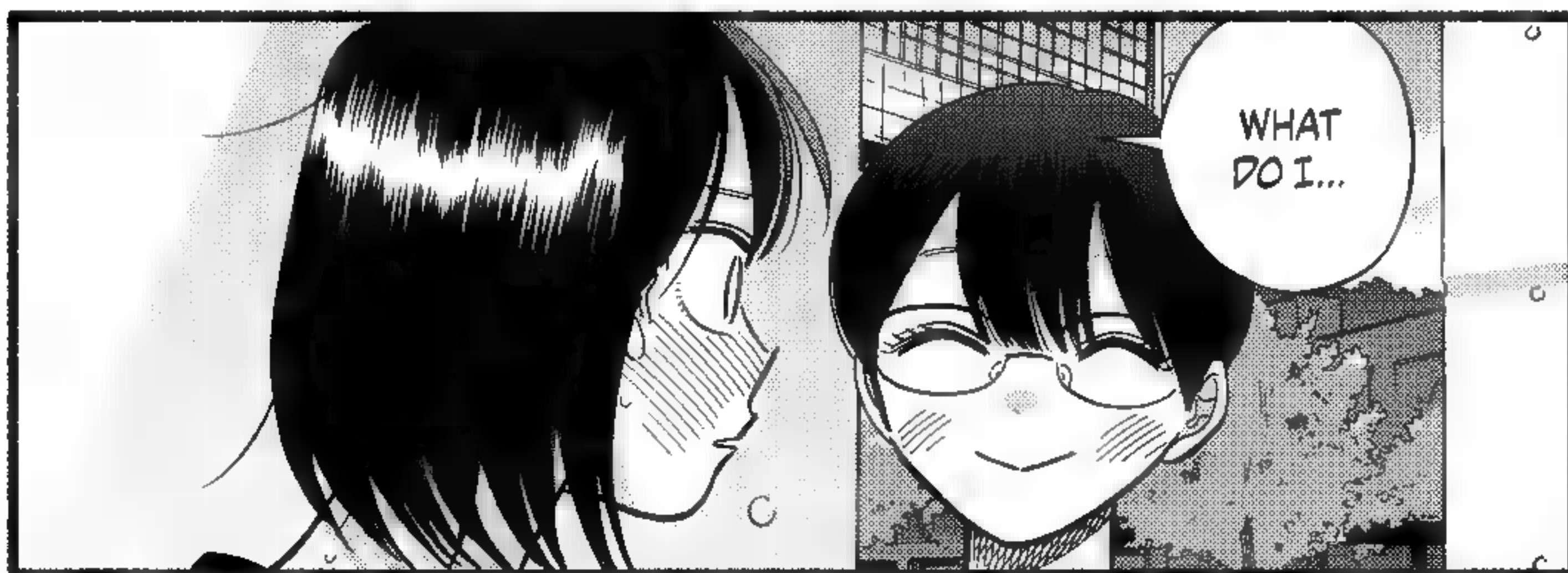
SIGH

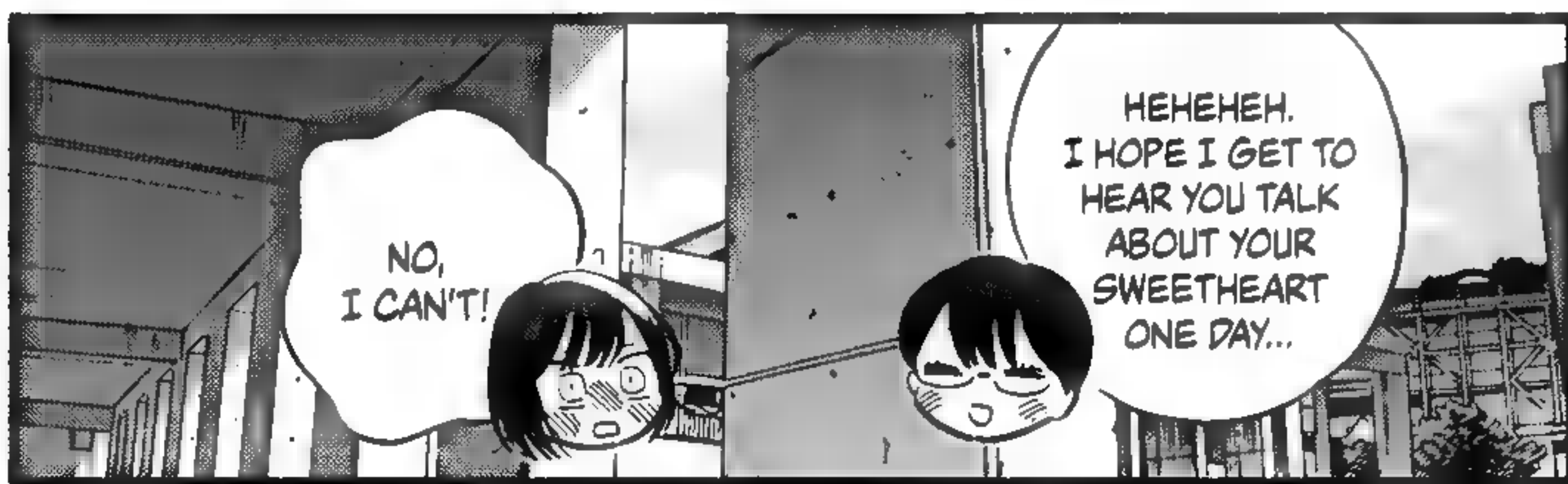


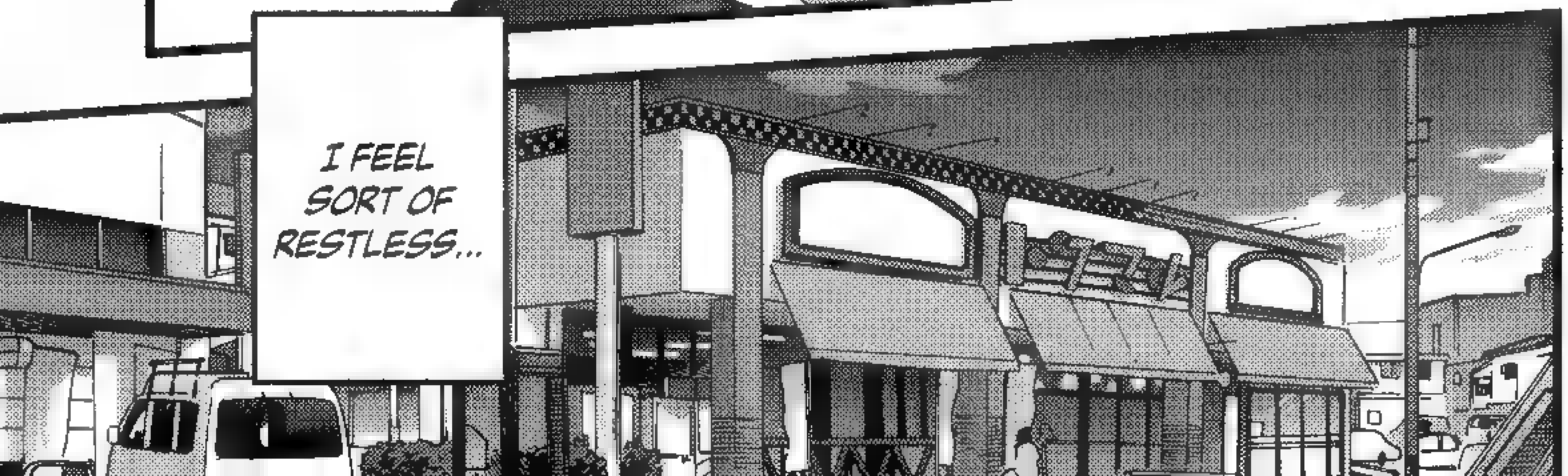
CALM DOWN, FUMI-CHAN.

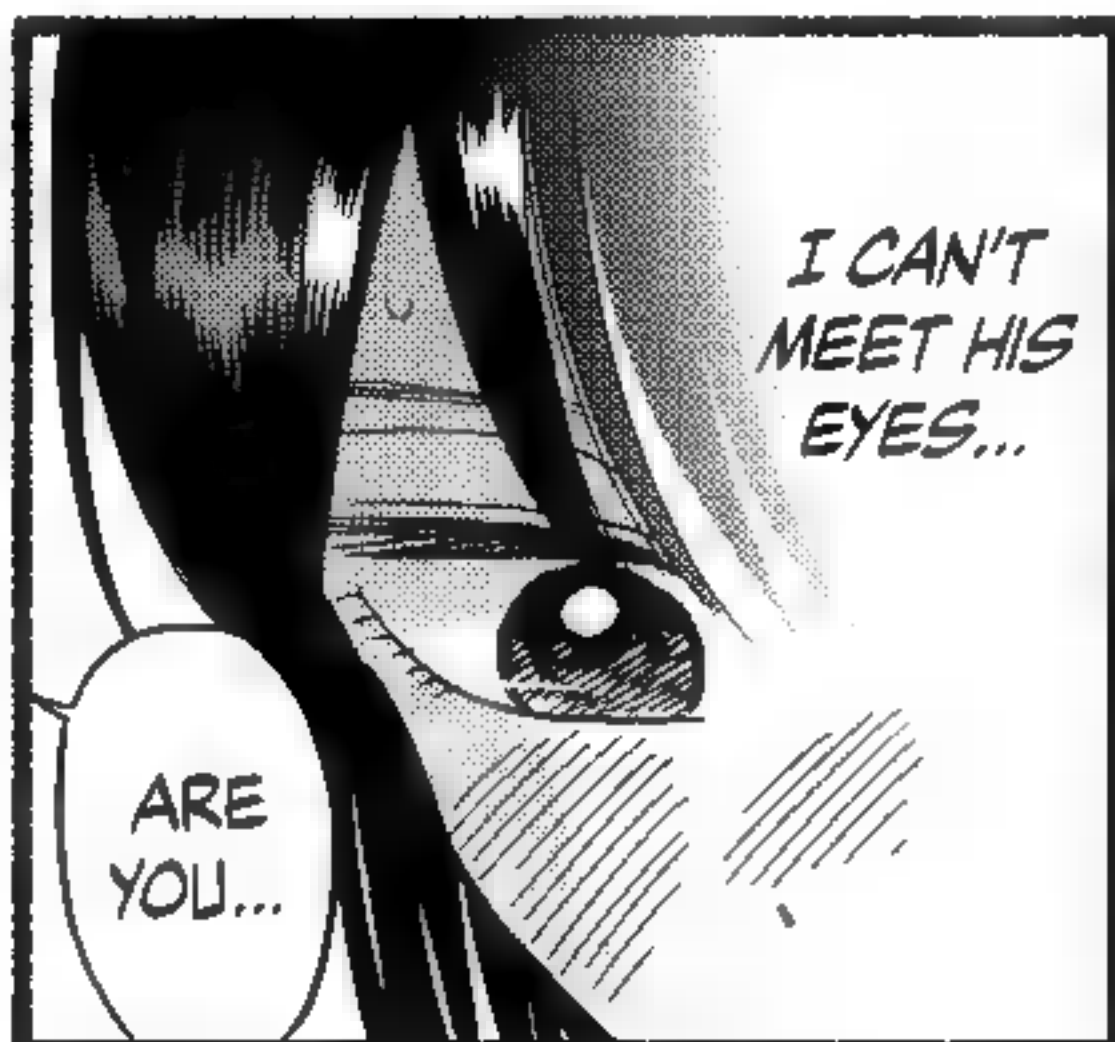
WHAT THE HECK, WHEN DID YOU DECIDE TO DO THAT?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALL LIKE "NO WAY, I CAN'T YET!" THIS CAME COMPLETELY OUT OF NOWHERE! HEY, WAIT A...

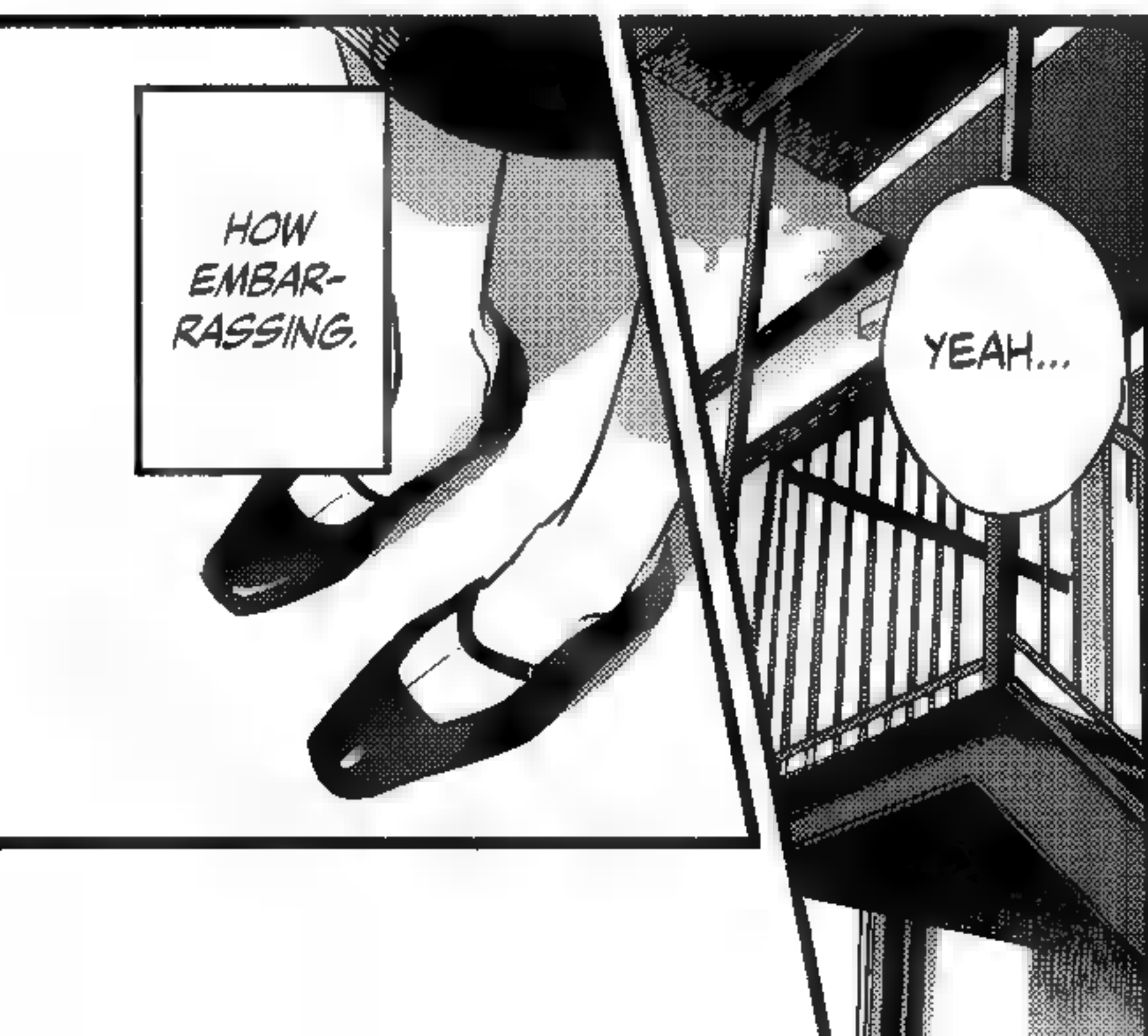


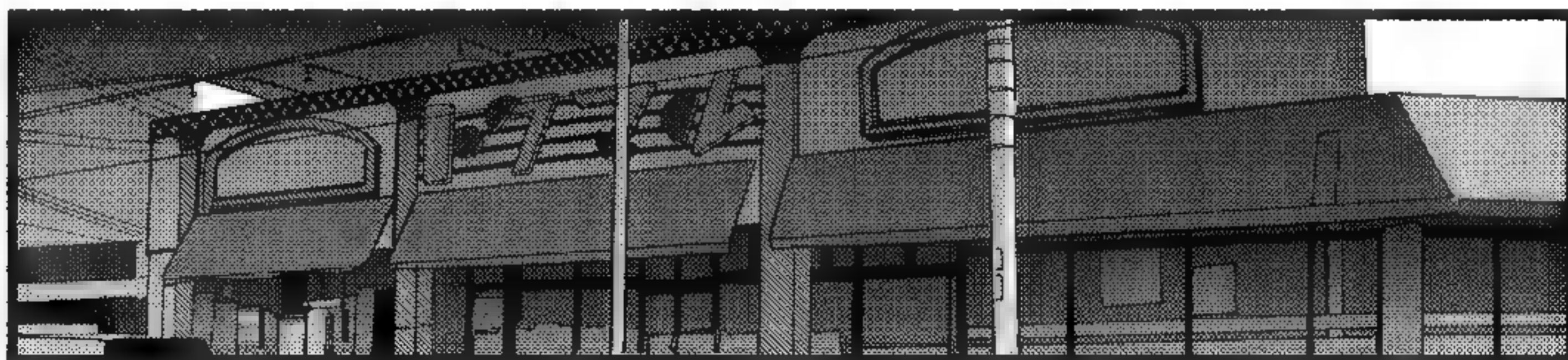












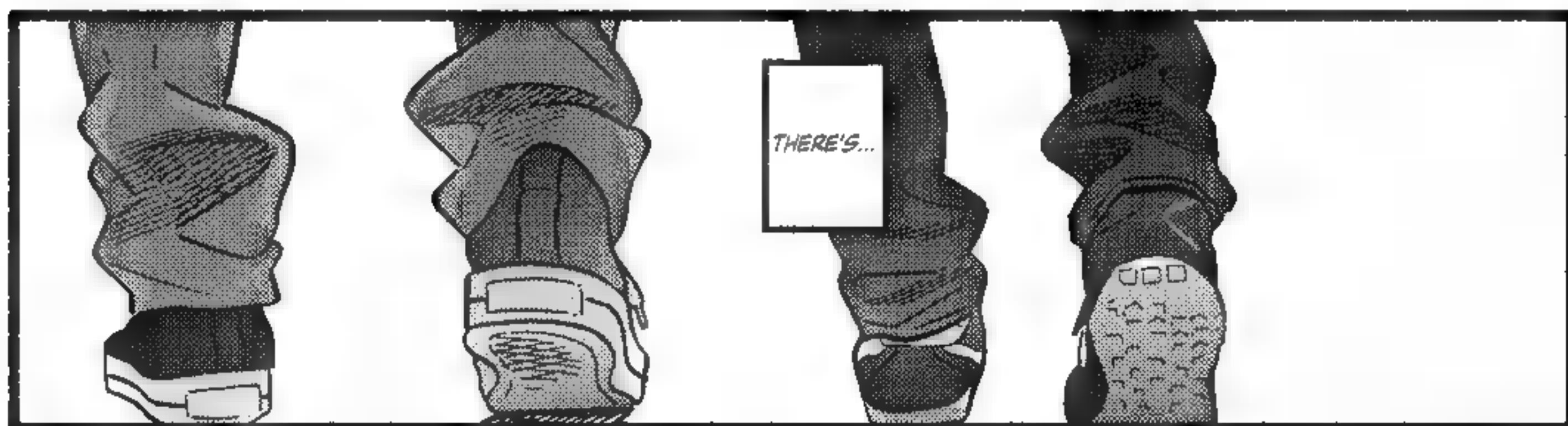










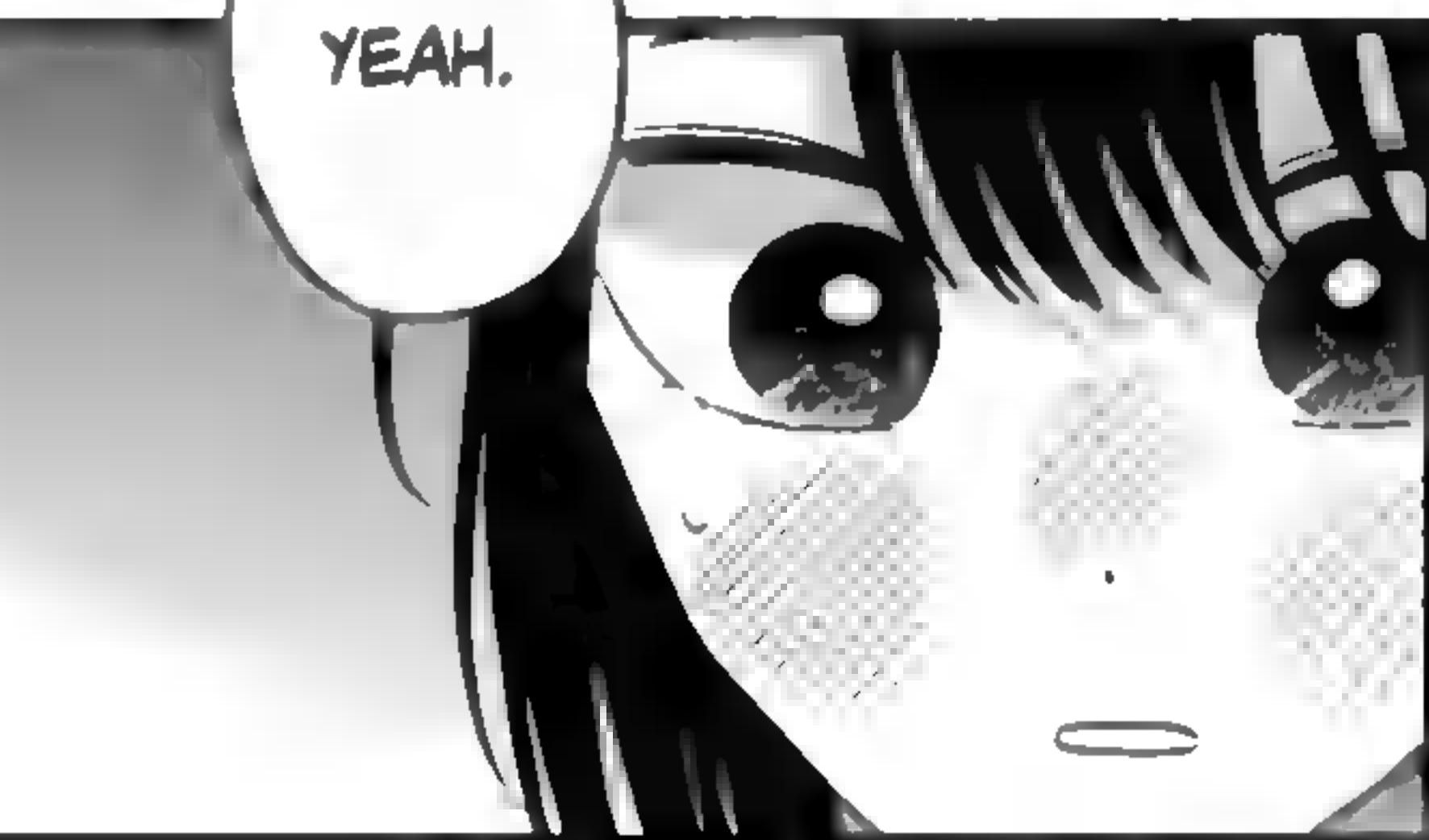








YEAH.



I'M
HAPPY TOO.



IT'S OKAY
FOR ME...



...TO
SHARE MY
AFFECTIONS.



THAT
SPECIAL BOND
BETWEEN US...

...MAKES
ME HAPPY,
TOO.



POTATO CHIP PARTY WITH FUMI-CHAN



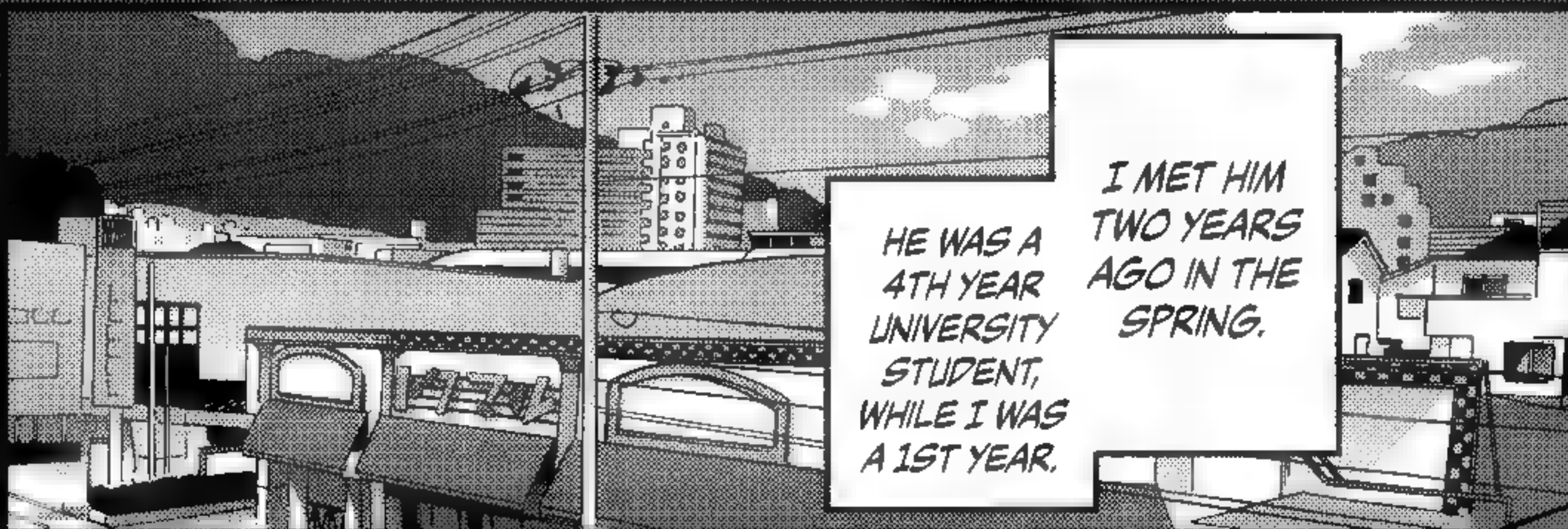


MATSUBARA-SAN WAS
ORIGINALLY
OUR SENPAI
AT WORK.



HE WAS A
4TH YEAR
UNIVERSITY
STUDENT,
WHILE I WAS
A 1ST YEAR.

I MET HIM
TWO YEARS
AGO IN THE
SPRING.



MATSUBARA-SAN WAS
KIND AND
ATTENTIVE.

JUST
DO A
LITTLE
AT A
TIME.

HE WAS
A VERY
RELIABLE
SEMPAI.

WOBBLE
ガラッ

AGH!

I'VE
GOT
IT!



I'M YUYA KANEKO,
18 YEARS OLD! I'LL
WORK MY ABSOLUTE
HARDEST!

RIGHT!

PLEASE
LOOK
AFTER
HIM.

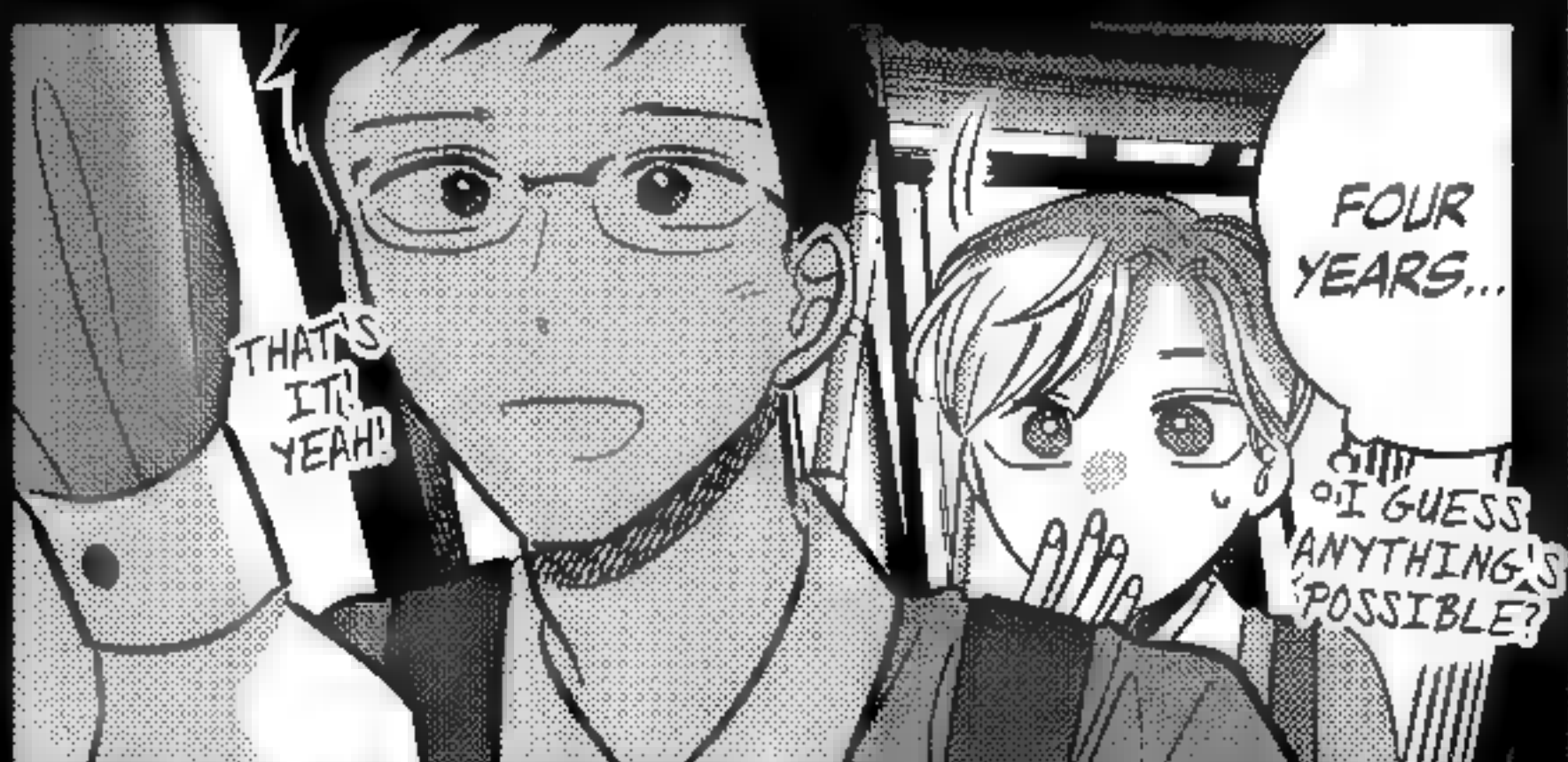
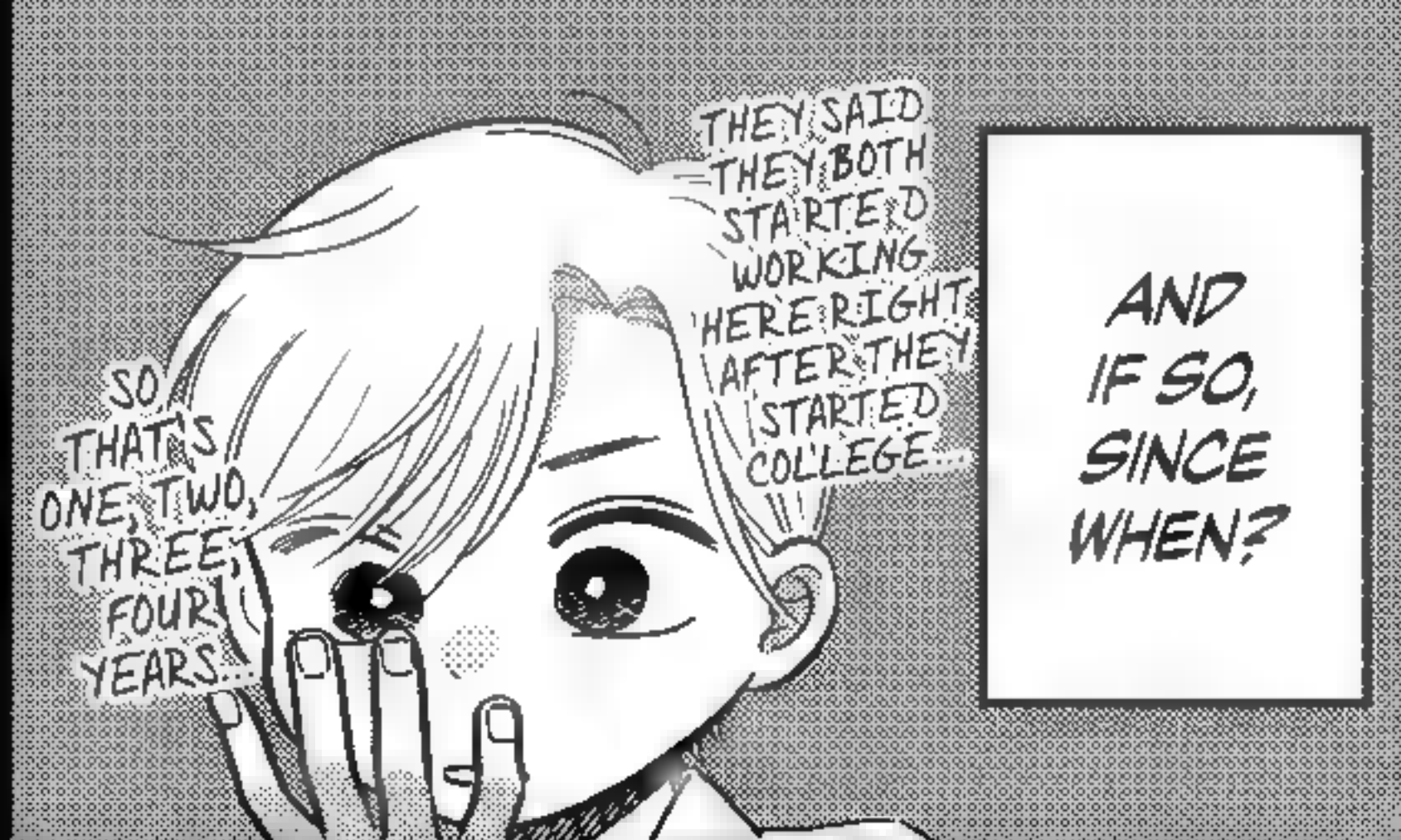
HE'S
DAZZLING...











EVERYONE CAME OUT TO A
FALL FOOD FESTIVAL!



...UNABLE TO
DO MUCH OF
ANYTHING,
THE SEASONS
TURNED TO
AUTUMN.



OH YEAH, THEY'RE
GRADUATING NEXT
SPRING.

CONGRATS.

I WAS
REALLY
WORRIED!



WHAT
ABOUT
YOUR
THESIS?

SHH!

GUESS
TODAY'S FOR
CELEBRATING
YOUR EMPLOY-
MENT!

I...I CAN FINALLY
RELAX AND ENJOY
MYSELF...!

NEVER
THOUGHT
IT WOULD
HAPPEN!

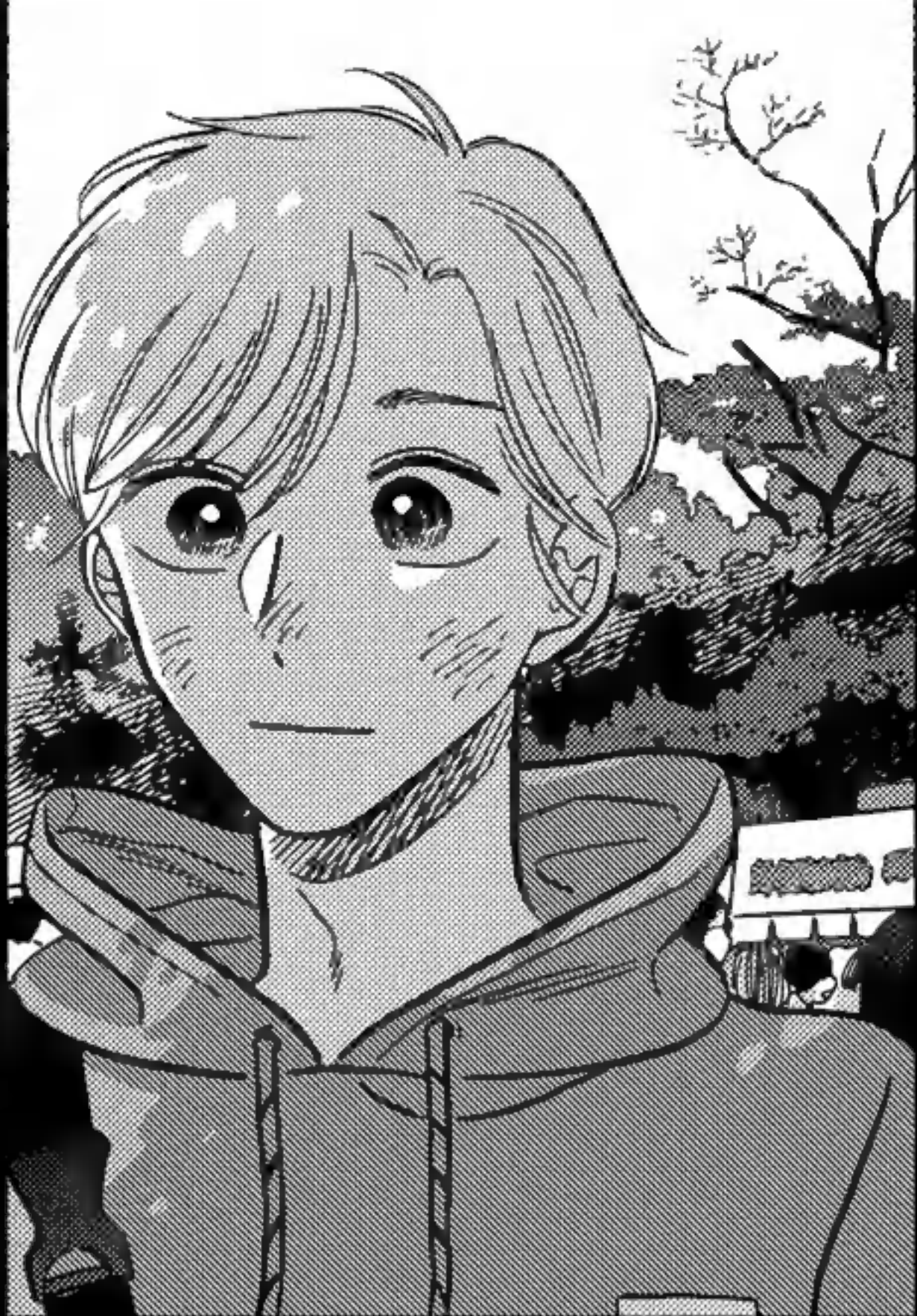
GOT
A JOB
OFFER



WHAT'LL
YOU DO,
MATSUBARA-
SAN?











COME ON BY!
BRING HARUKAWA-SAN, TOO!



OOH!

YEAH, YOU SHOULD!

BY THE WAY, YOU OUGHTA COME BUY SOMETHING ON ONE OF YOUR DAYS OFF.

WELL, TAKE CARE GETTING HOME.



THAT'S RIGHT, YOU GUYS SUDDENLY GOT TOGETHER RIGHT BEFORE GRADUATION.

BLUSH

OH, OKAY.



HARUKAWA-SAN CAME BY THE OTHER DAY.
YEAH, SHE MENTIONED THAT.



THAT'S...

...WHAT MAKES ME HAPPY.

I WANT TO SEE THE PEOPLE I LIKE SMILING.

END OF VOLUME 4

A Side Character's Love Story 4 Akane Tamura

A Side Character's Love Story Vol. 4

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